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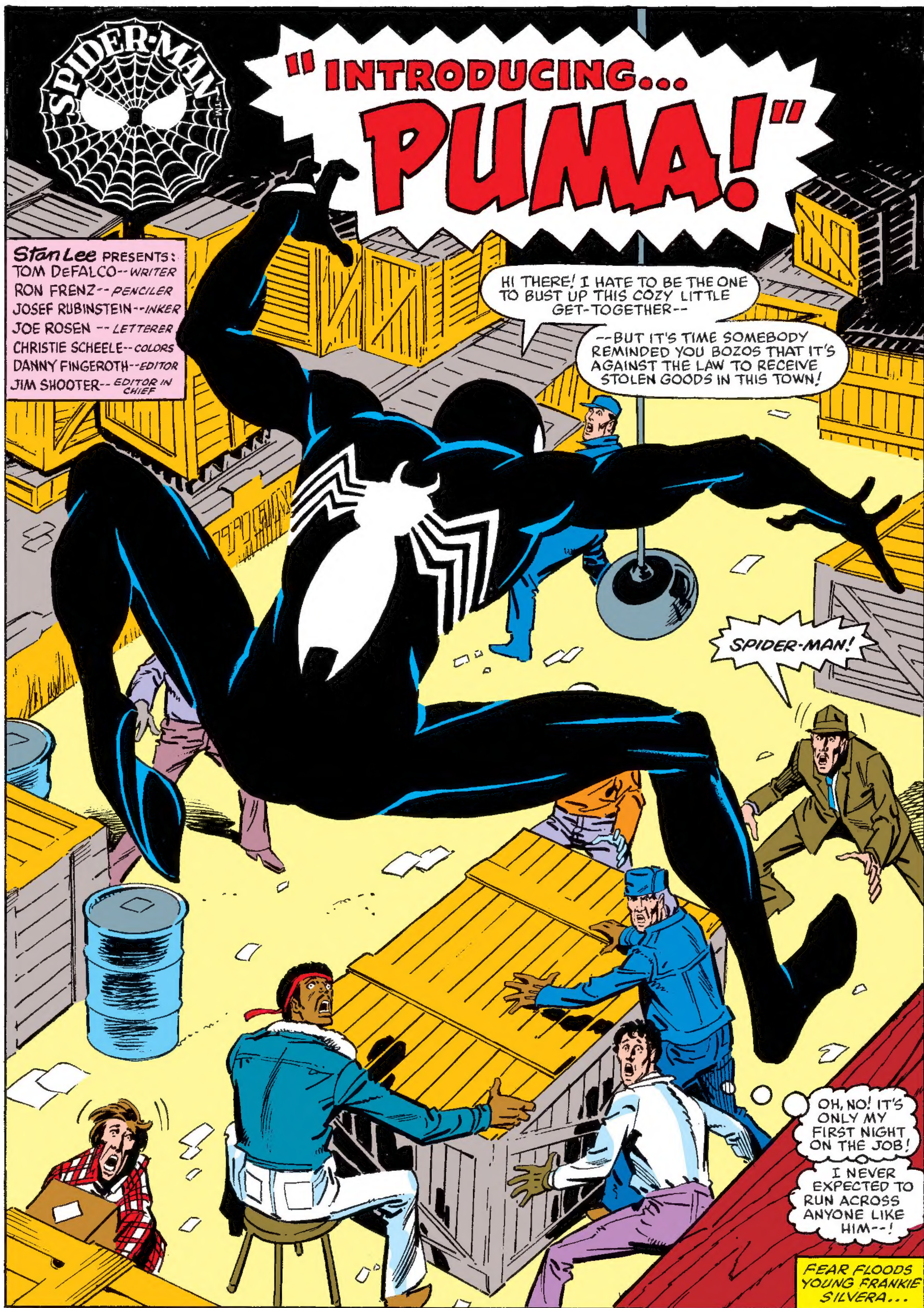
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

INJURED...

HELPLESS...

**...AND
STALKED
BY
PUMA!**





FRANKIE'S AMBITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO BECOME A MAN OF RESPECT! A MAN OF PROPERTY!

FWAM!

KWAK!

HE SAW CRIME AS AN EASY WAY TO ATTAIN THOSE GOALS...

...UNTIL NOW!

HE'S SO FAST! SO AGILE --! NOBODY CAN MOVE LIKE THAT!

KEEP BACK! I'M WARNING YOU--!

BLAMM!

HEY! YOU'RE NOT A BAD SHOT--

-- BUT, YOU'LL HAVE TO GET A LOT BETTER IF YOU EXPECT TO PLAY IN THE BIG LEAGUES!

PWAP!

ALL RIGHT, WHO WANTS TO BE NEXT ON THE HIT PARADE?

UH-OH! THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON ME!

GOTTA CATAPULT MYSELF FORWARD--!

GEE, THAT BOX LOOKS AWFUL HEAVY!

MAYBE YOU AND YOUR BUDDY SHOULD RELAX FOR AN HOUR OR SO!

MEANWHILE, I'LL KEEP THESE GUYS COMPANY!

SWAK!

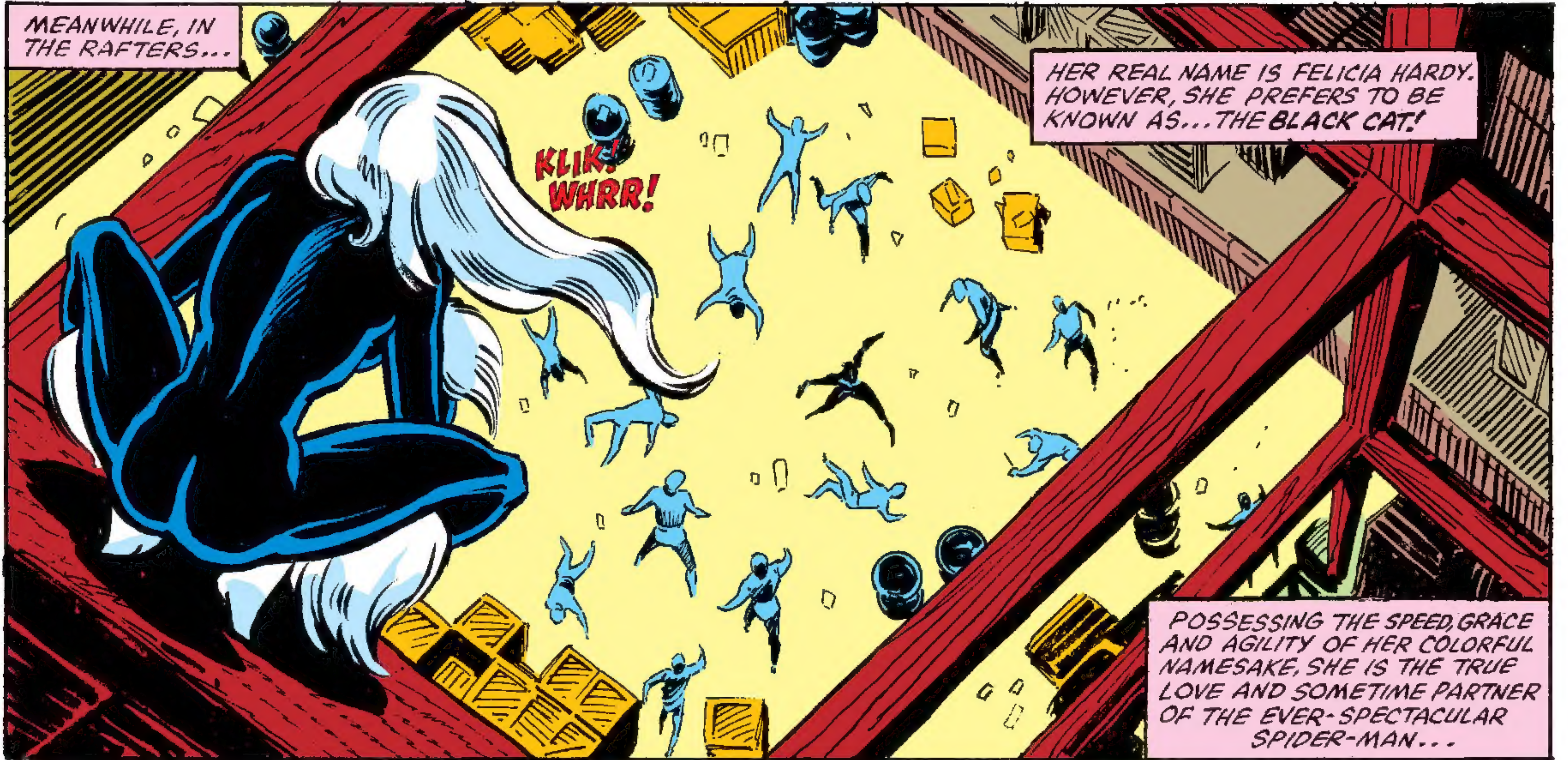
SWOK!

SWUNK!

YOU BOYS HAD A SWEET OPERATION HERE! YOU'D BUY STOLEN GOODS FROM THE LOCAL THIEVES--

-- AND SHIP THEM TO THIS CENTRAL WAREHOUSE!

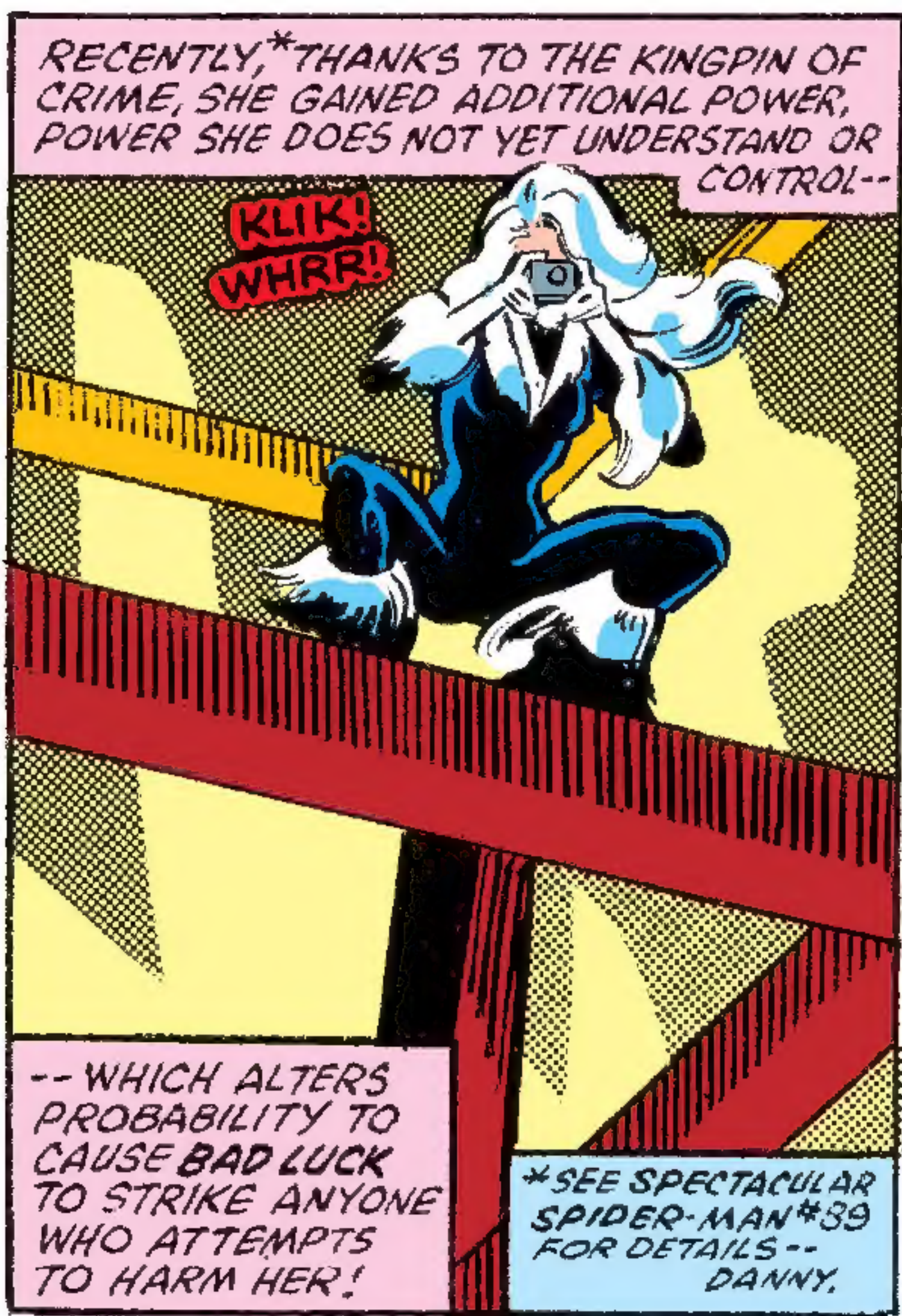
REAL PROFESSIONAL! WHAT DID YOU CALL YOURSELVES --FENCES 'R' US?!



MEANWHILE, IN THE RAFTERS...

HER REAL NAME IS FELICIA HARDY. HOWEVER, SHE PREFERS TO BE KNOWN AS...THE BLACK CAT!

POSSESSING THE SPEED, GRACE AND AGILITY OF HER COLORFUL NAMESAKE, SHE IS THE TRUE LOVE AND SOMETIME PARTNER OF THE EVER-SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN...



RECENTLY,*THANKS TO THE KINGPIN OF CRIME, SHE GAINED ADDITIONAL POWER, POWER SHE DOES NOT YET UNDERSTAND OR CONTROL--

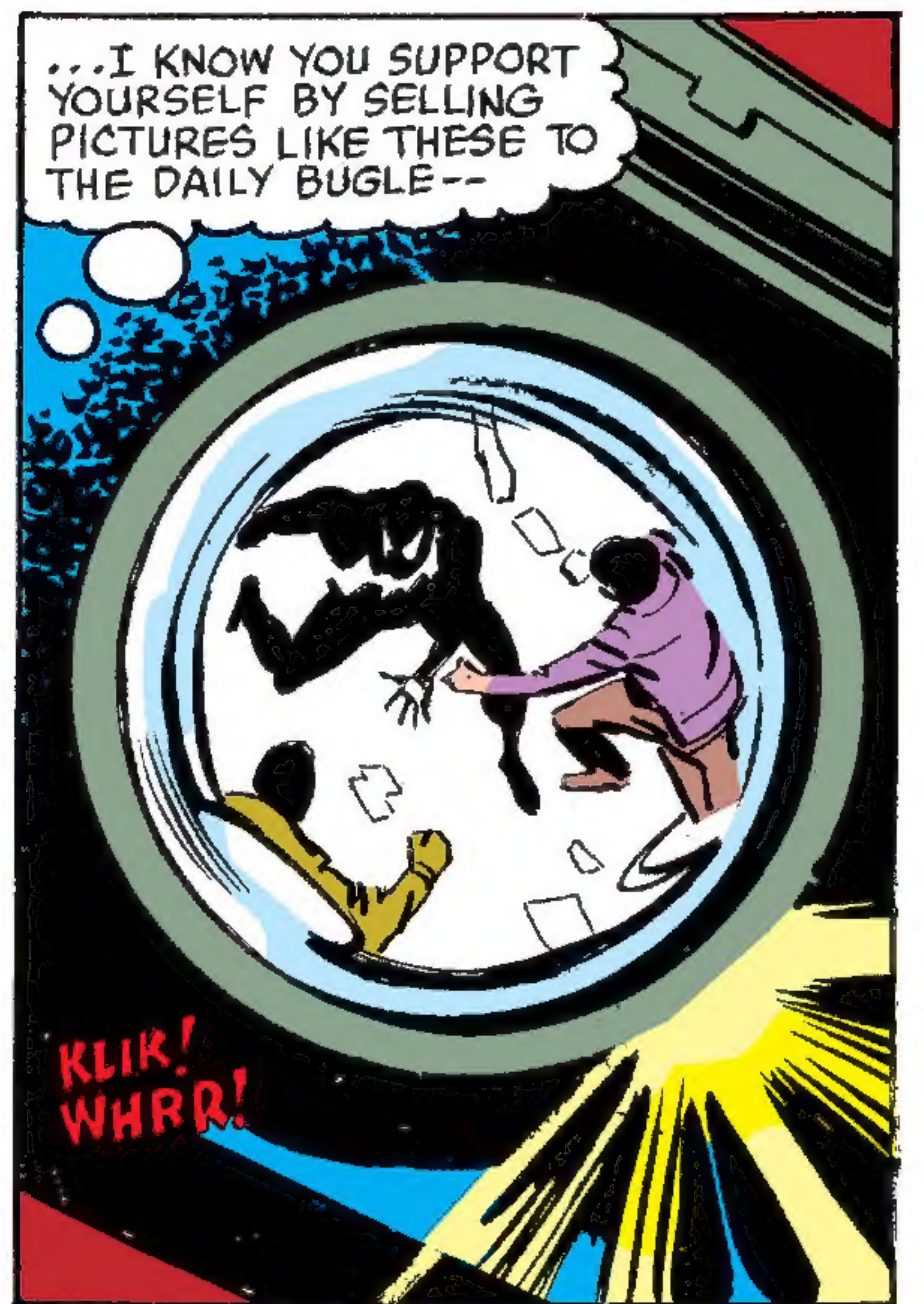
-- WHICH ALTERS PROBABILITY TO CAUSE BAD LUCK TO STRIKE ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO HARM HER!

*SEE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN#39 FOR DETAILS-- DANNY.



SHE KEEPS THIS LAST POWER A CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET, EVEN FROM THE MAN SHE LOVES...

OH, SPIDER...



...I KNOW YOU SUPPORT YOURSELF BY SELLING PICTURES LIKE THESE TO THE DAILY BUGLE--

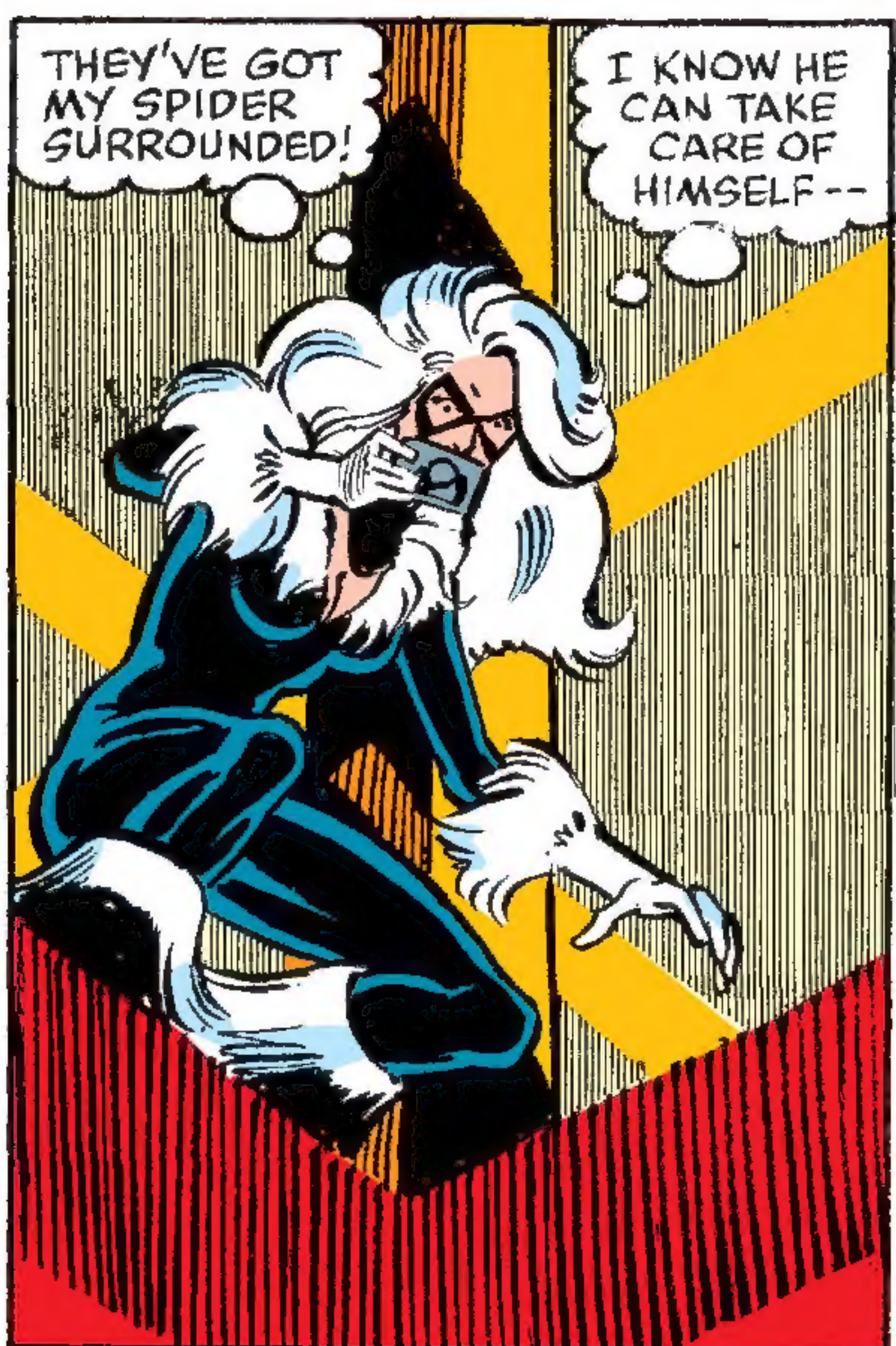
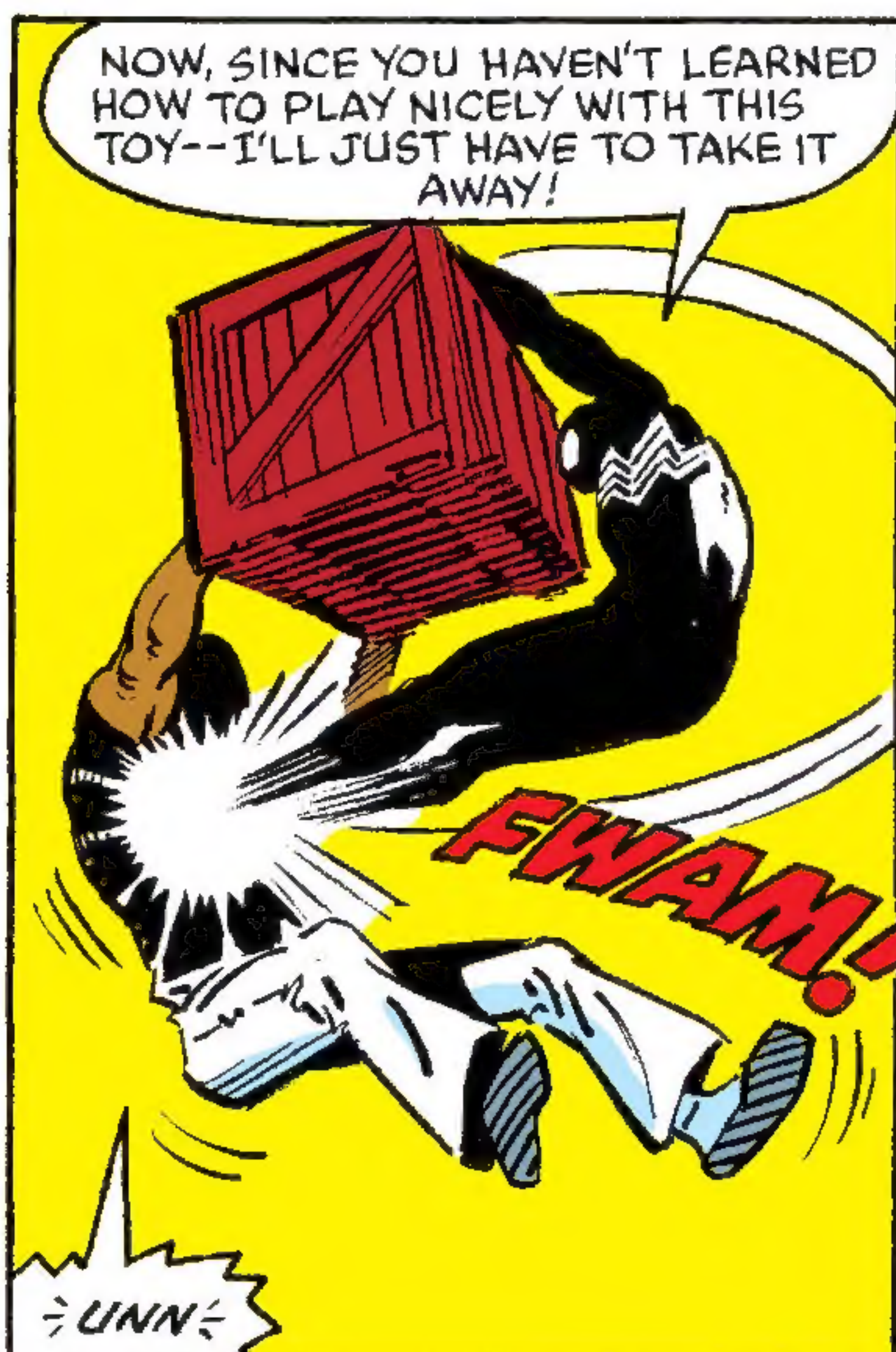
KLIK! WHRR!

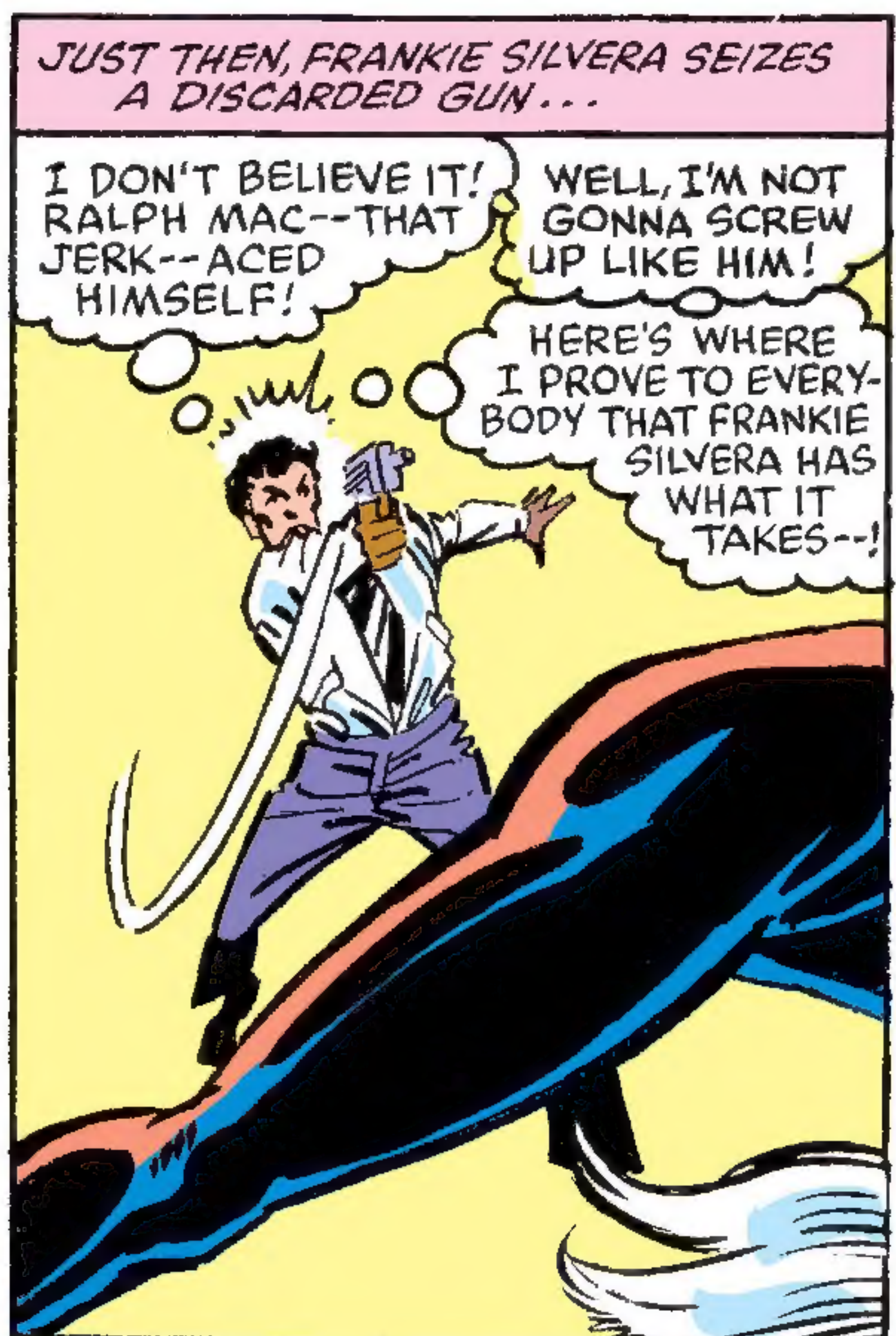
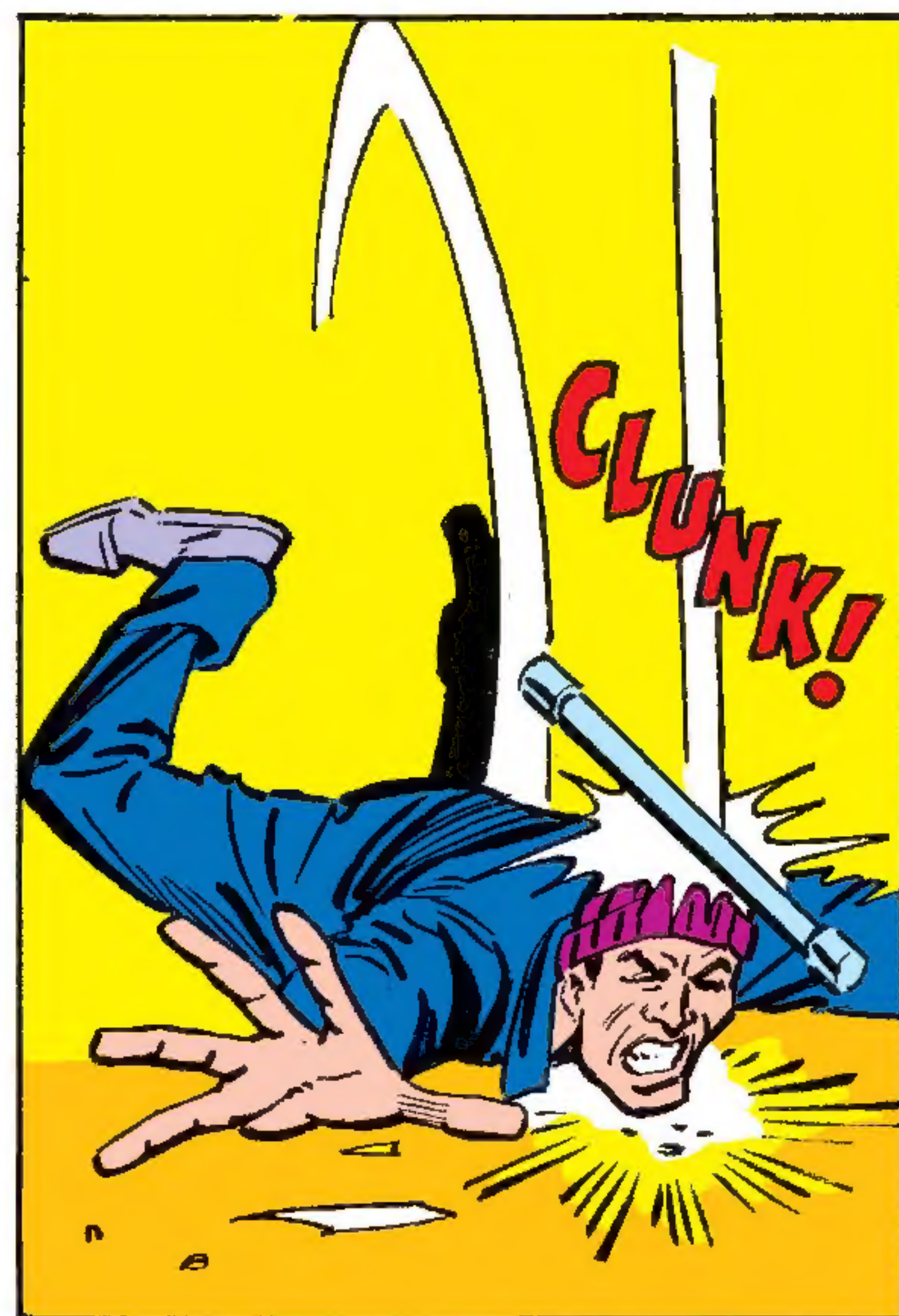
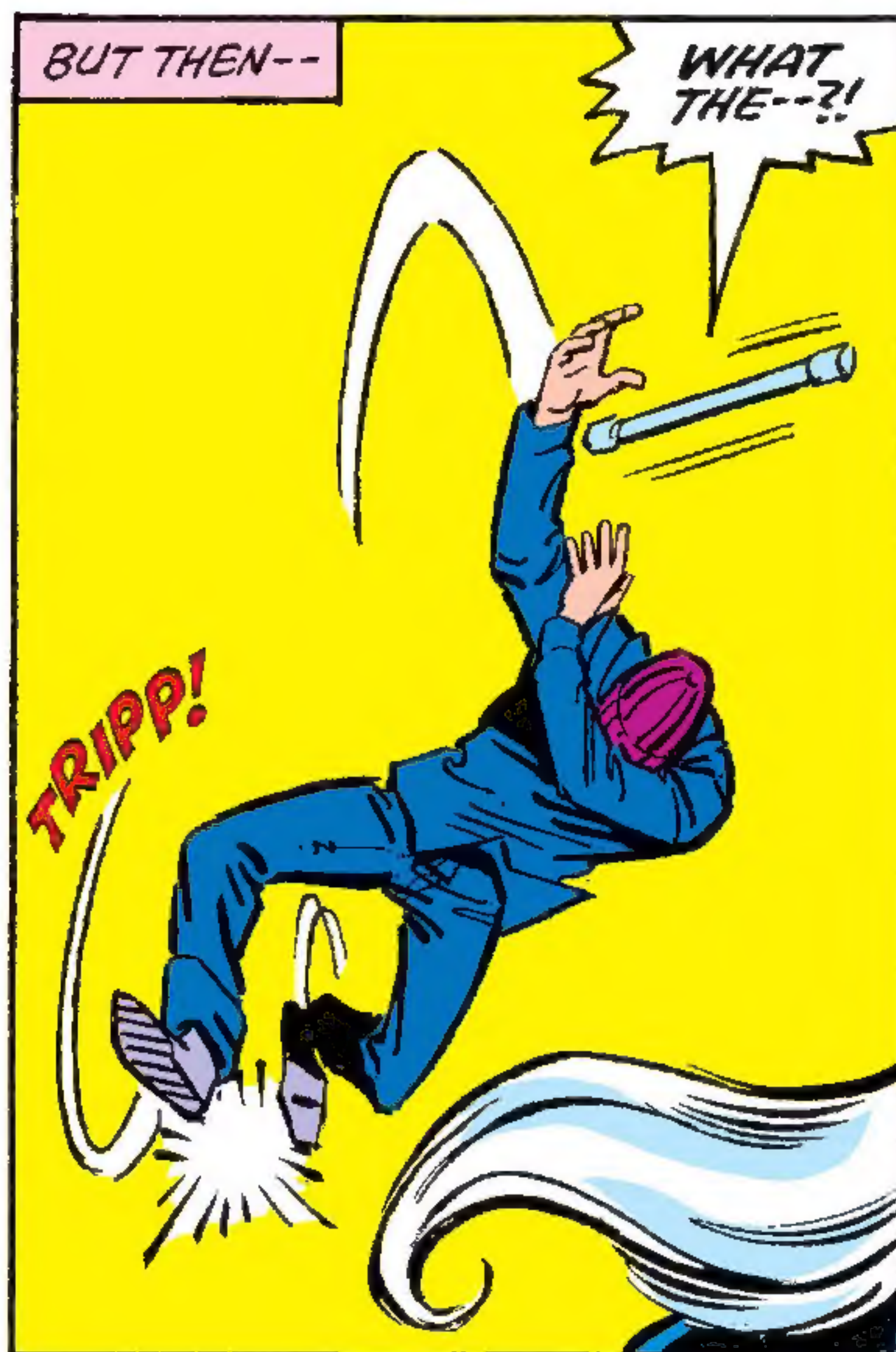
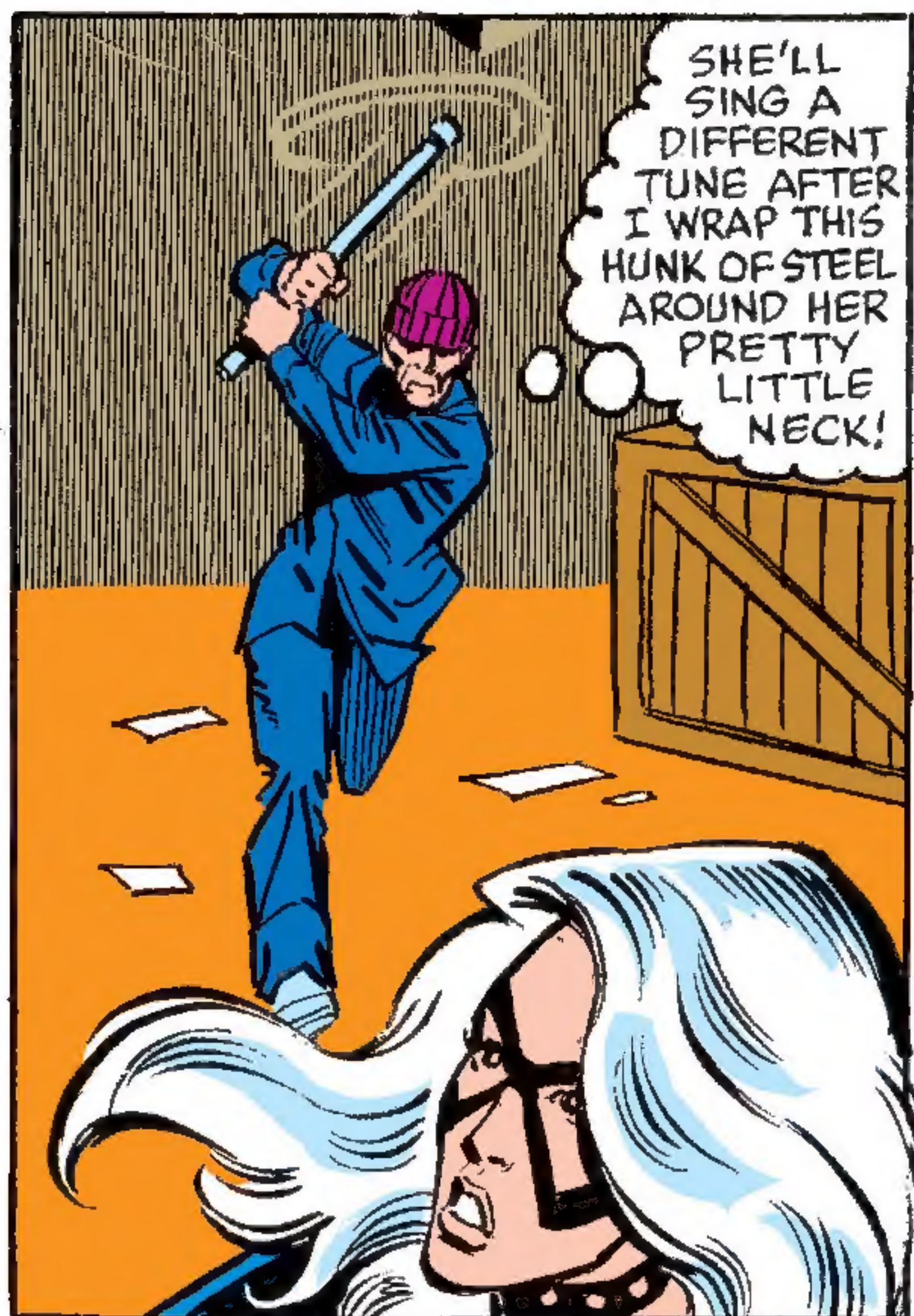
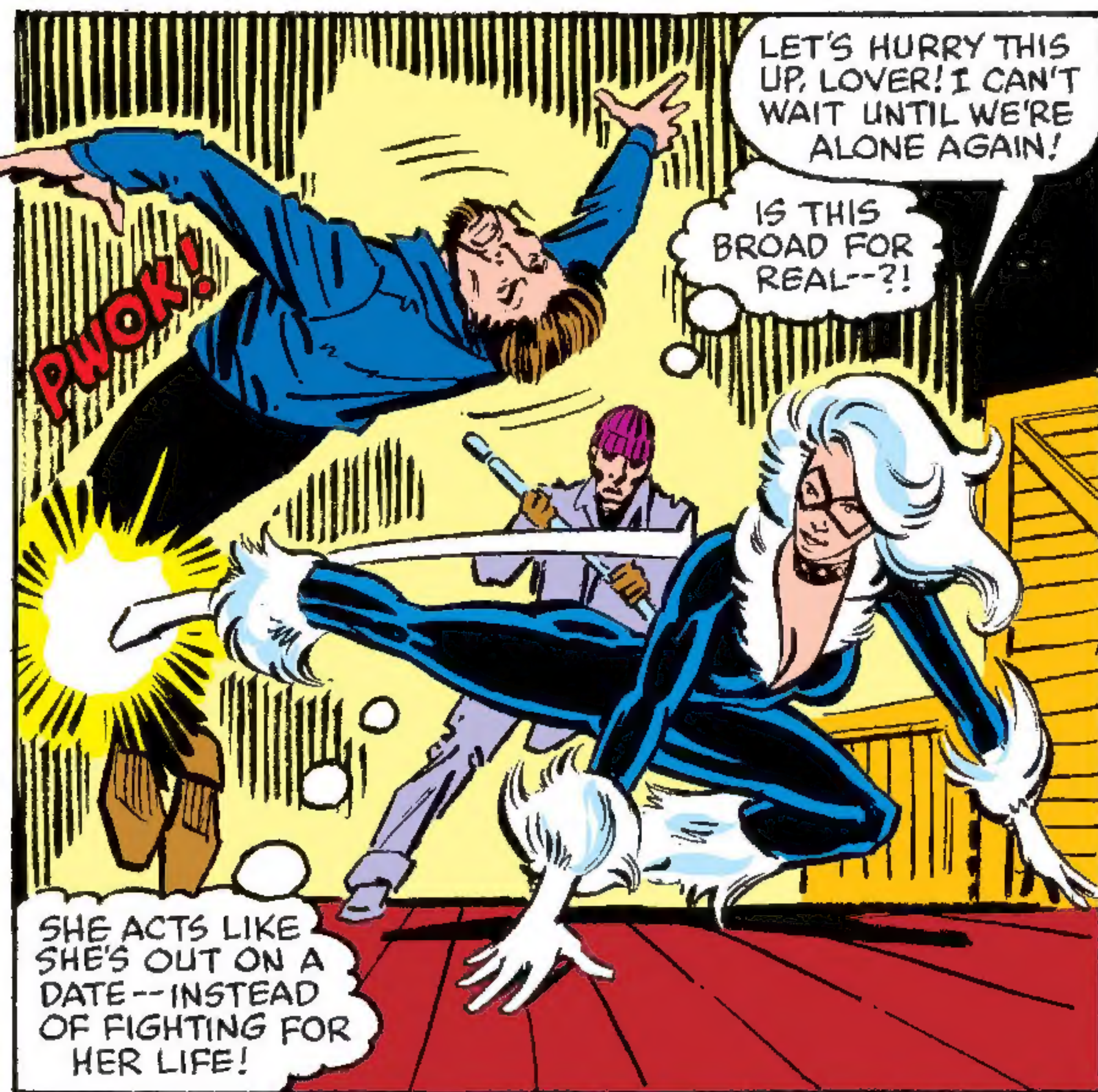


"-- BUT I WISH YOU WOULDN'T HOG ALL THE FUN--"



"-- FOR YOURSELF!"





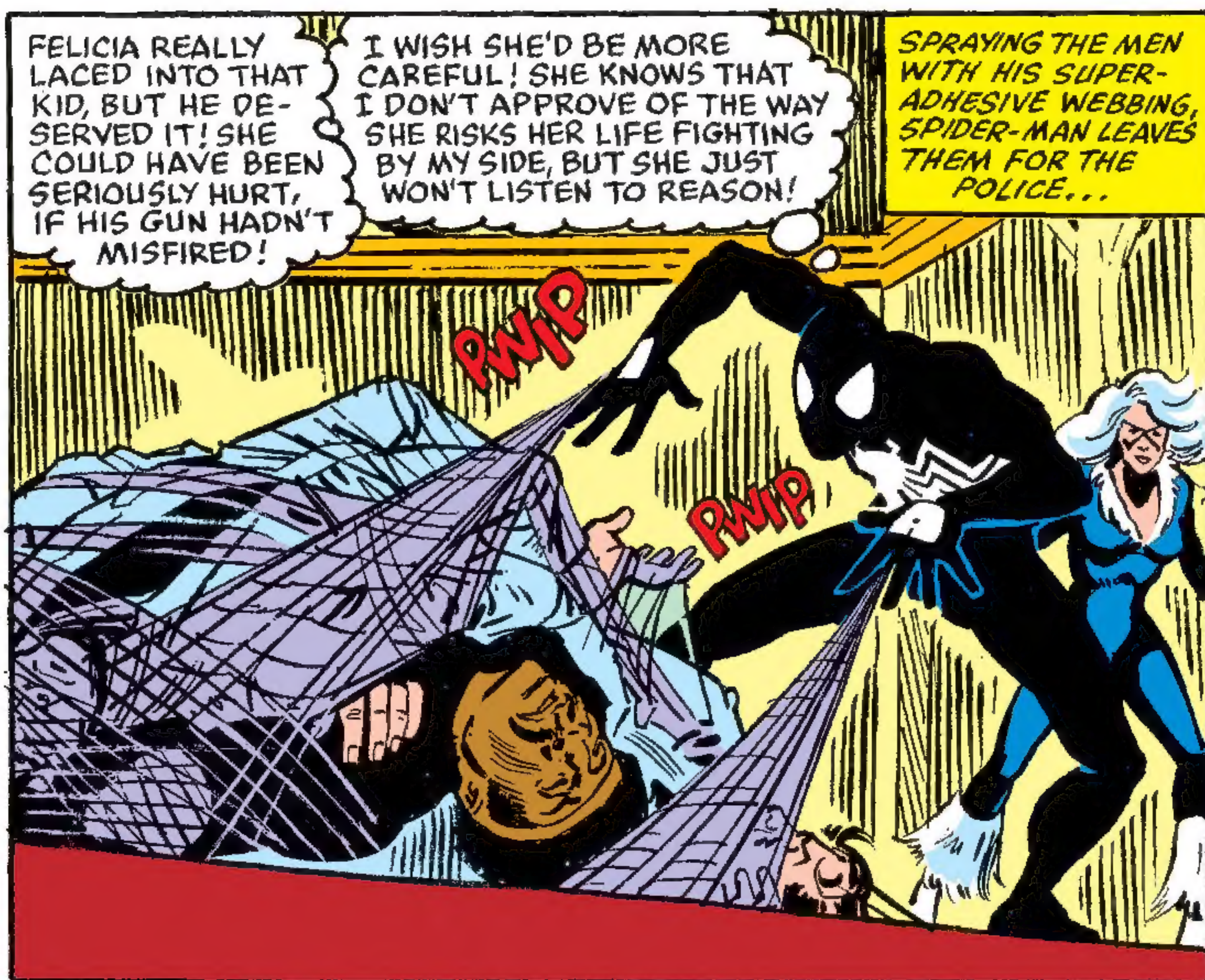


--THAT'S THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS!

PWAM!



UNNN!



FELICIA REALLY LACED INTO THAT KID, BUT HE DESERVED IT! SHE COULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HURT, IF HIS GUN HADN'T MISFIRED!

I WISH SHE'D BE MORE CAREFUL! SHE KNOWS THAT I DON'T APPROVE OF THE WAY SHE RISKS HER LIFE FIGHTING BY MY SIDE, BUT SHE JUST WON'T LISTEN TO REASON!

SPRAYING THE MEN WITH HIS SUPER-ADHESIVE WEBBING, SPIDER-MAN LEAVES THEM FOR THE POLICE...

PWIP

PWIP



MINUTES LATER...

SPIDER, YOU HAVEN'T SAID A WORD SINCE WE LEFT THE WAREHOUSE. IS SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

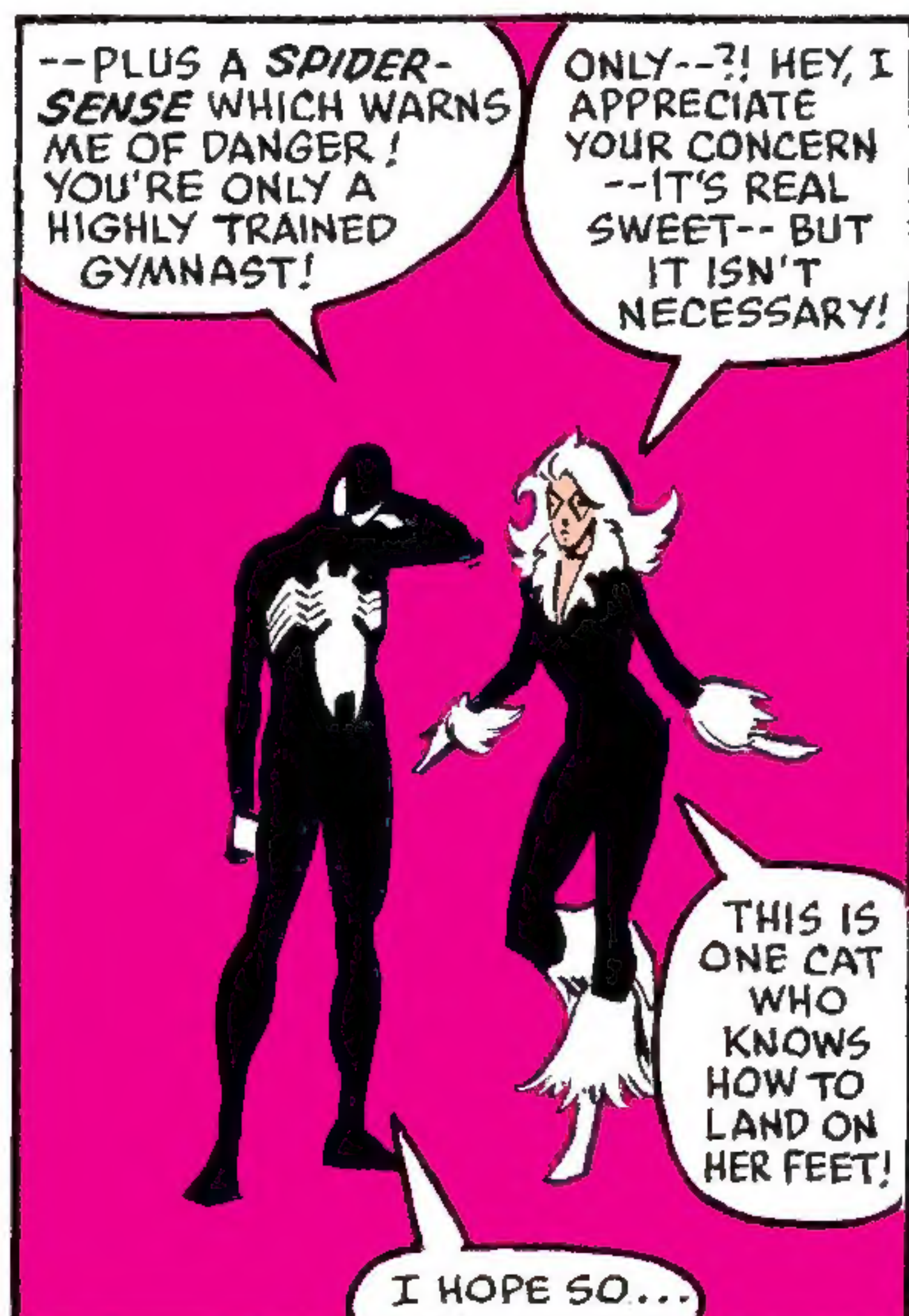
IT'S NOTHING NEW, CAT...



IT'S JUST THAT I THINK YOU'RE TOO FOOLHARDY! YOU TAKE TOO MANY NEEDLESS CHANCES!

LOOK WHO'S TALKING--!

IT'S DIFFERENT FOR ME! I HAVE REAL SUPER POWERS--

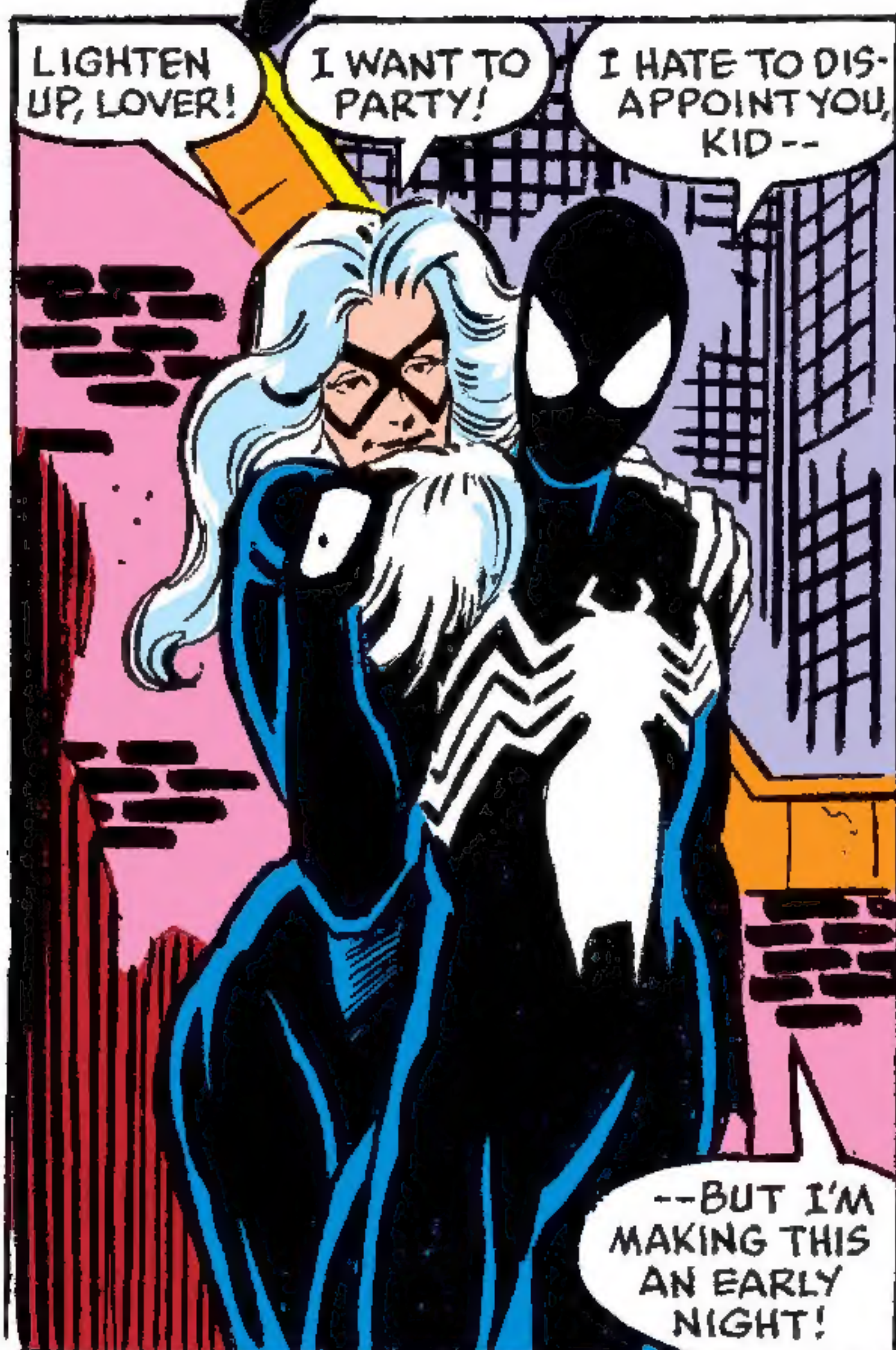


--PLUS A SPIDER-SENSE WHICH WARNS ME OF DANGER! YOU'RE ONLY A HIGHLY TRAINED GYMNAST!

ONLY--?! HEY, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN --IT'S REAL SWEET-- BUT IT ISN'T NECESSARY!

THIS IS ONE CAT WHO KNOWS HOW TO LAND ON HER FEET!

I HOPE SO...



LIGHTEN UP, LOVER!

I WANT TO PARTY!

I HATE TO DIS-APPOINT YOU, KID--

--BUT I'M MAKING THIS AN EARLY NIGHT!



I'VE GOTTA GET HOME, AND DEVELOP THESE PICTURES BEFORE MORNING.

OH, POO! YOU CAN BE SUCH A SPOILSPORT AT TIMES-- BUT I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WHEN YOU'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR A GOODNIGHT KISS, INSTEAD.

TRIGGERED BY SPIDER-MAN'S THOUGHTS, HIS COSTUME-- AN AMAZING SOUVENIR FROM A DISTANT PLANET-- IMMEDIATELY OPENS A WIDE SEAM AROUND HIS MOUTH, AS ONE KISS TURNS TO MANY...



AND THEN...

POOR SPIDER! I'D LOVE TO TELL HIM ABOUT MY ENHANCED ATHLETIC PROWESS, AND MY BAD LUCK POWERS--

-- BUT HE'D BE IN A REAL PANIC IF HE EVER LEARNED THAT I GOT THEM FROM HIS ENEMY-- THE KINGPIN!

SOMETIME LATER, AS SPIDER-MAN RETURNS TO HIS CHELSEA APARTMENT...

I MUST BE CRAZY!

ONLY A FIRST CLASS NUT WOULD GIVE UP A CHANCE TO GO MESSING AROUND THE ROOFTOPS WITH THE BLACK CAT!

THE DAILY BUGLE COULDN'T POSSIBLY PAY ME ENOUGH FOR THESE PIX TO BE WORTH THAT KIND OF SACRIFICE--!

OH, WELL, NO ONE EVER SAID THAT THE LIFE OF A FREELANCE PHOTOHOUND WOULD BE EASY--

--AND IT'S NOT!

A MENTAL COMMAND CAUSES HIS COSTUME TO MELT AWAY FROM HIS HANDS AND FACE!!!

YAWN! I'M REALLY WRECKED TONIGHT-- BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE THE GENERAL RULE THESE DAYS. I NEVER SEEM TO GET ENOUGH SLEEP. I'M ALWAYS TIRED!

I'D BETTER GET COOKING ON THOSE PHOTOS BEFORE I COMPLETELY FALL OUT...

AND SO...

GOT TO GIVE THE CAT CREDIT-- SHE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE A CAMERA!

THESE ARE GOOD! REAL GOOD!

WISH I COULD SAY THAT I'M THRILLED, BUT I'M NOT! IT'S REAL OBVIOUS THAT SHE TAKES A MUCH BETTER PICTURE THAN I DO.

THAT BOTHERS ME! A LOT!

IT'S TIME I TOOK THIS WORK A BIT MORE SERIOUSLY!

MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE A FEW COURSES TO IMPROVE MY SKILLS!

AFTER SELECTING THE VERY BEST PHOTOS, HE TURNS TO STORE THE OTHERS AWAY--

-- BUT THEN...

OH, NO!

OF ALL THE CLUMSY--!

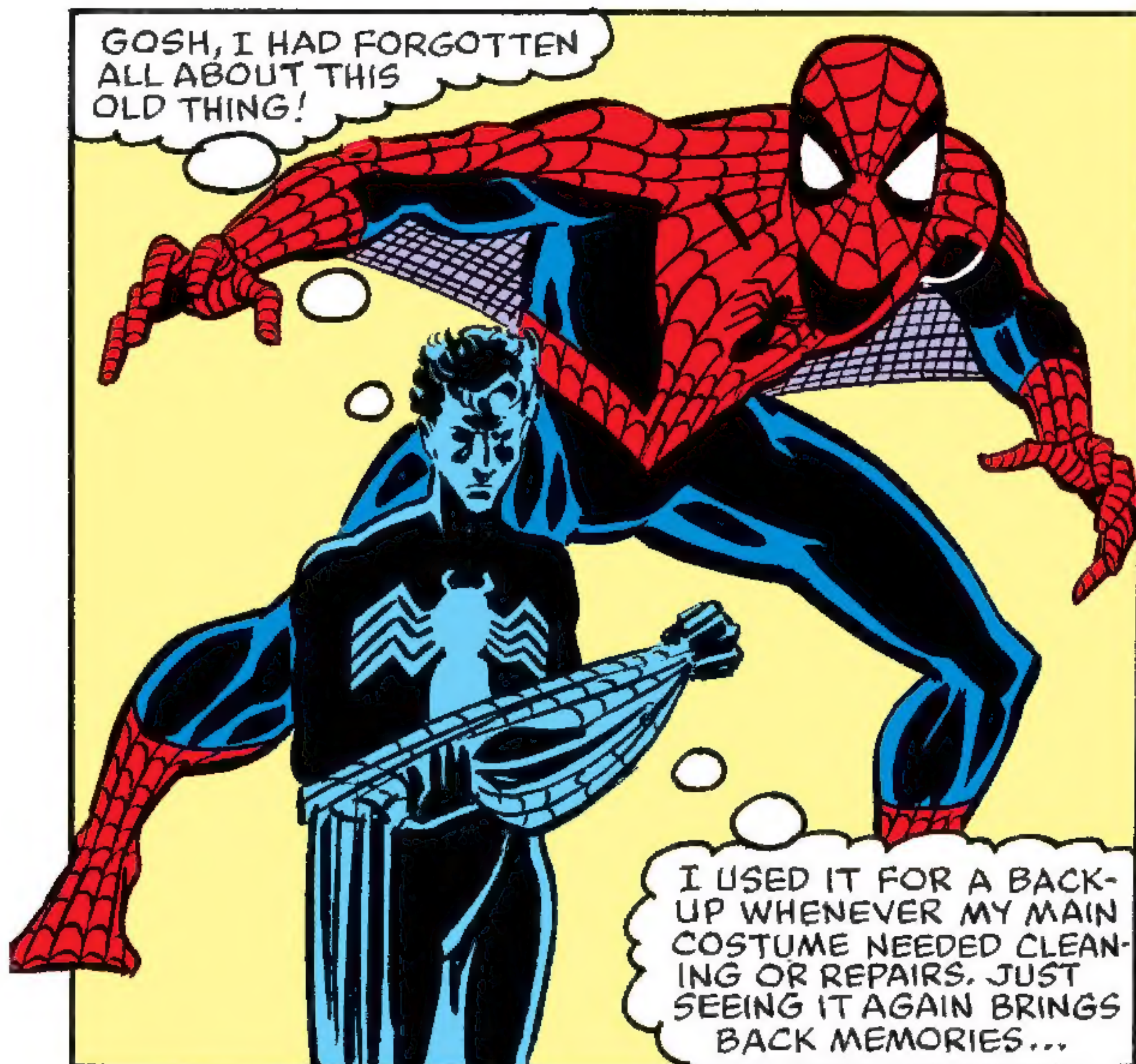
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME LATELY? I SEEM TO BE ALL THUMBS!

I WONDER IF IT'S TIED IN WITH MY GENERAL LETHARGY?

GEE, I HOPE I'M NOT COMING DOWN WITH ANYTHING!

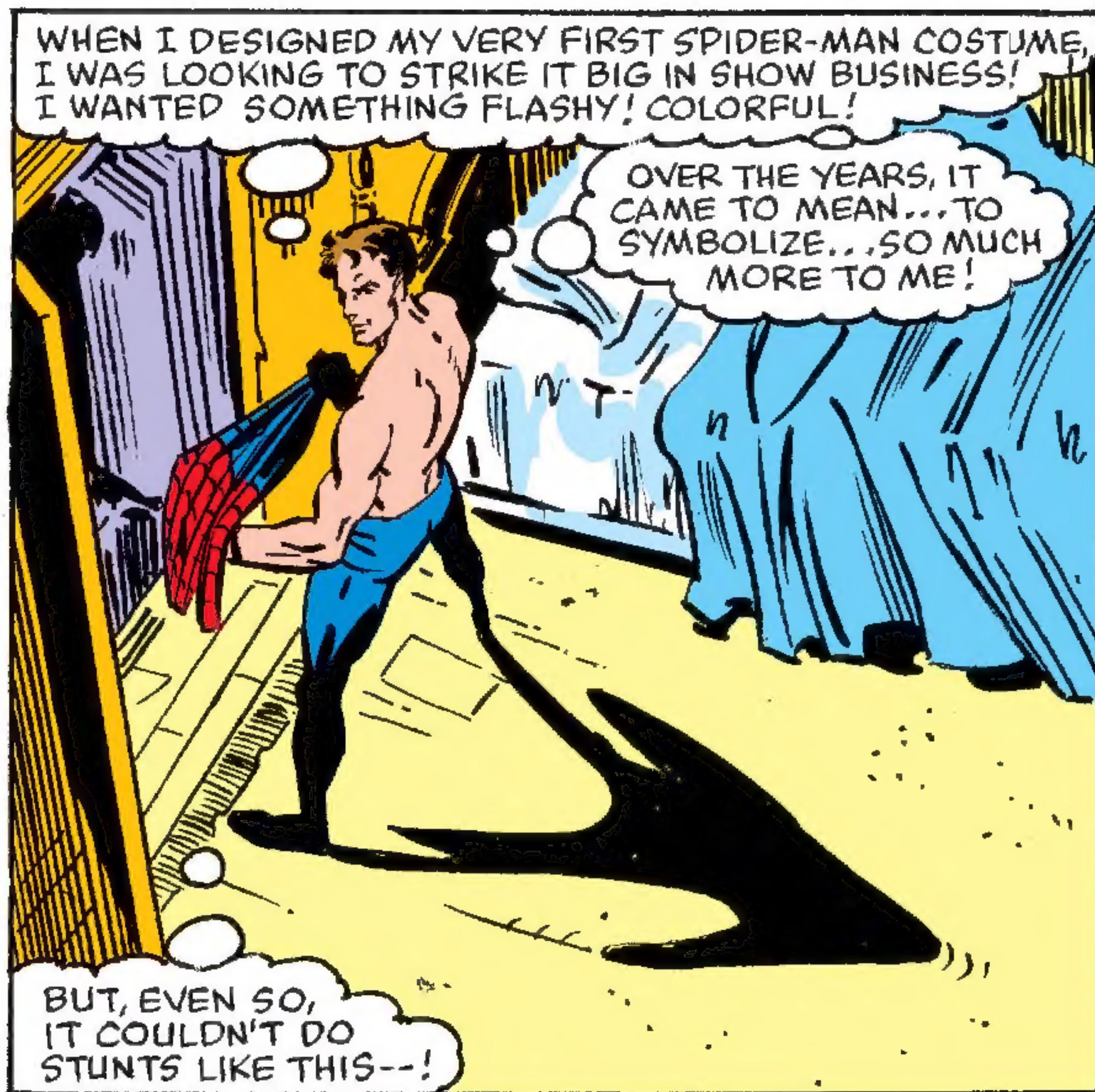
HEY! IN THE CORNER--!

MY OLD, SPARE COSTUME!



GOSH, I HAD FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT THIS OLD THING!

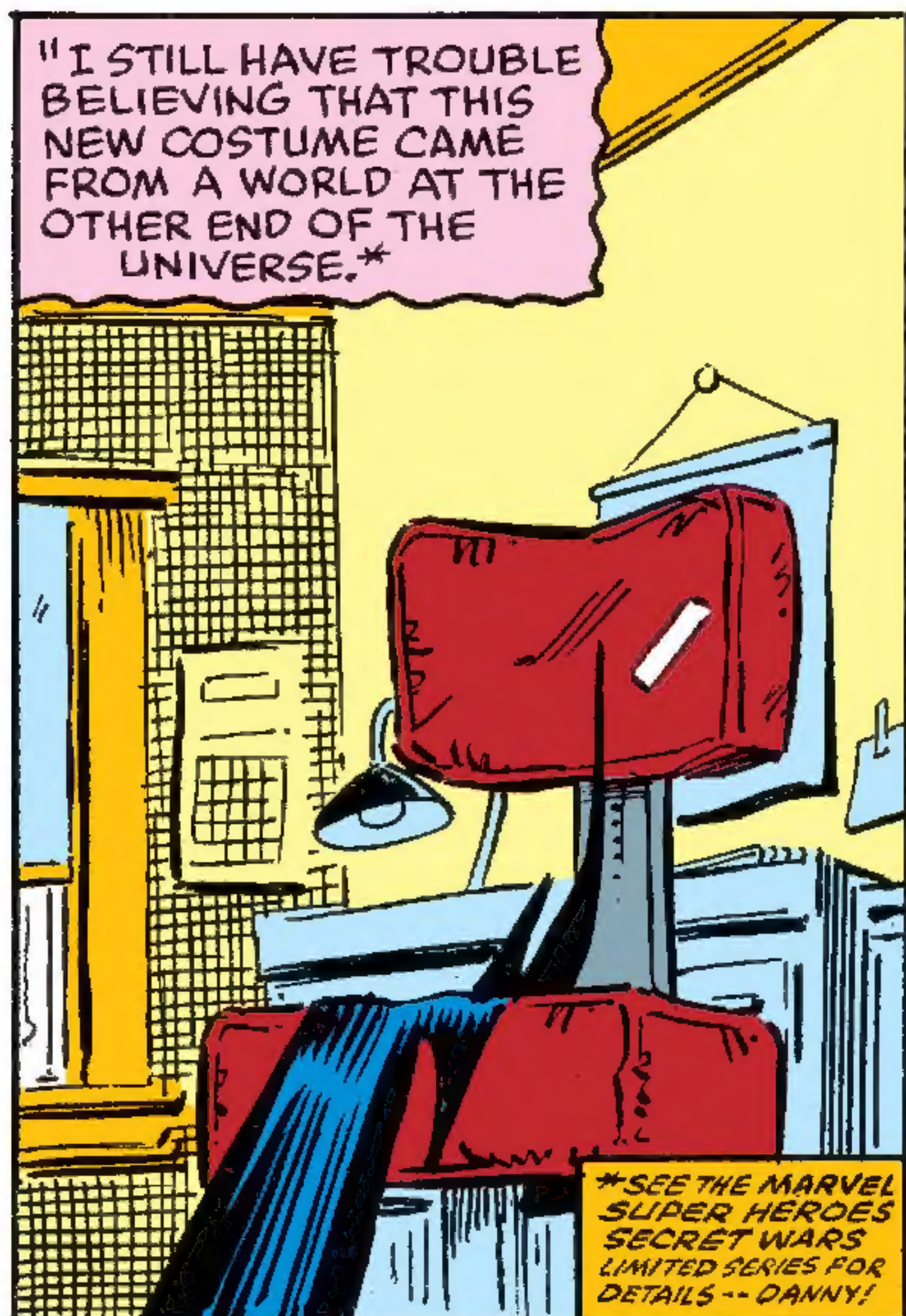
I USED IT FOR A BACK-UP WHENEVER MY MAIN COSTUME NEEDED CLEANING OR REPAIRS. JUST SEEING IT AGAIN BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...



WHEN I DESIGNED MY VERY FIRST SPIDER-MAN COSTUME, I WAS LOOKING TO STRIKE IT BIG IN SHOW BUSINESS! I WANTED SOMETHING FLASHY! COLORFUL!

OVER THE YEARS, IT CAME TO MEAN... TO SYMBOLIZE... SO MUCH MORE TO ME!

BUT, EVEN SO, IT COULDN'T DO STUNTS LIKE THIS--!

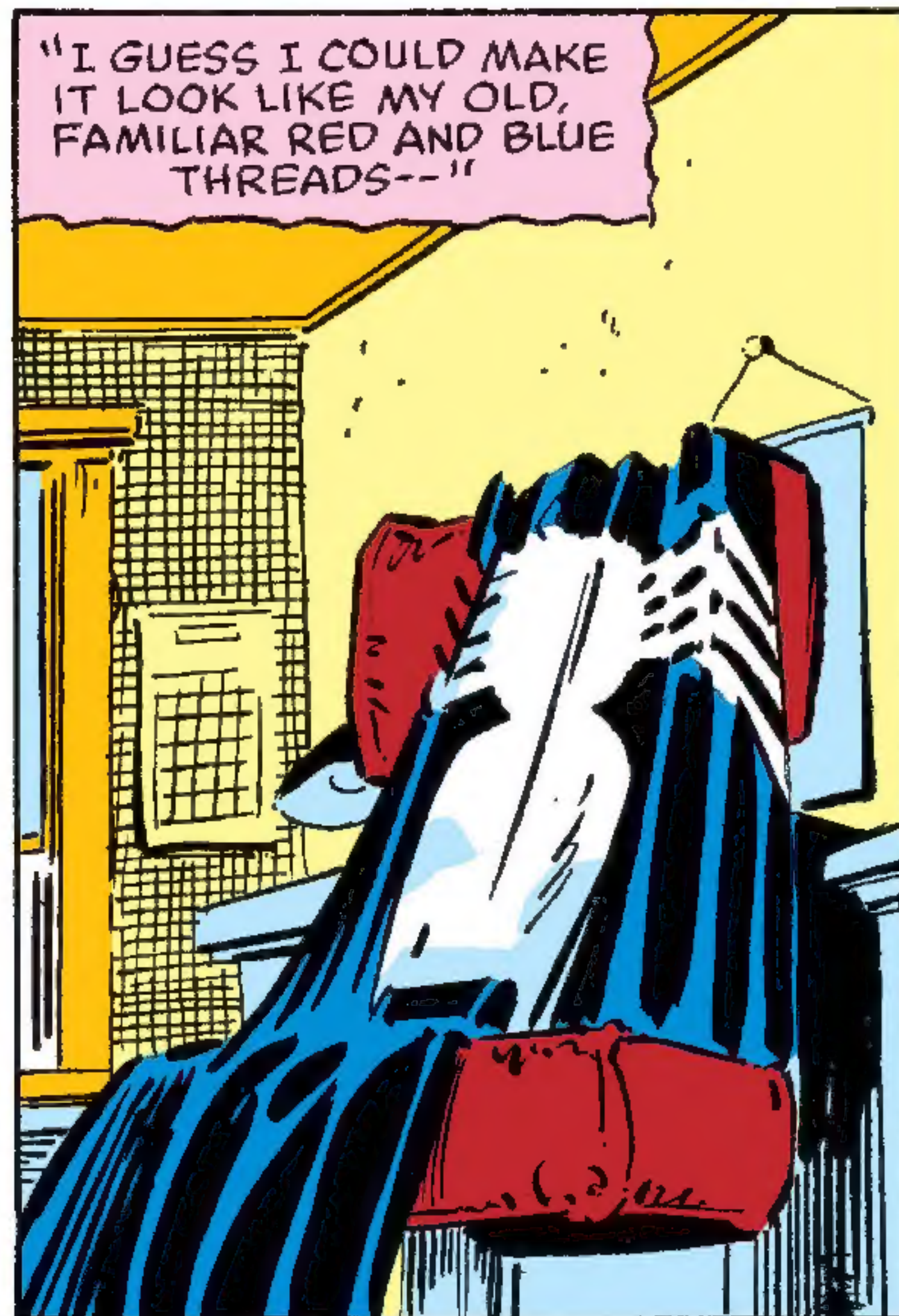


"I STILL HAVE TROUBLE BELIEVING THAT THIS NEW COSTUME CAME FROM A WORLD AT THE OTHER END OF THE UNIVERSE.*"

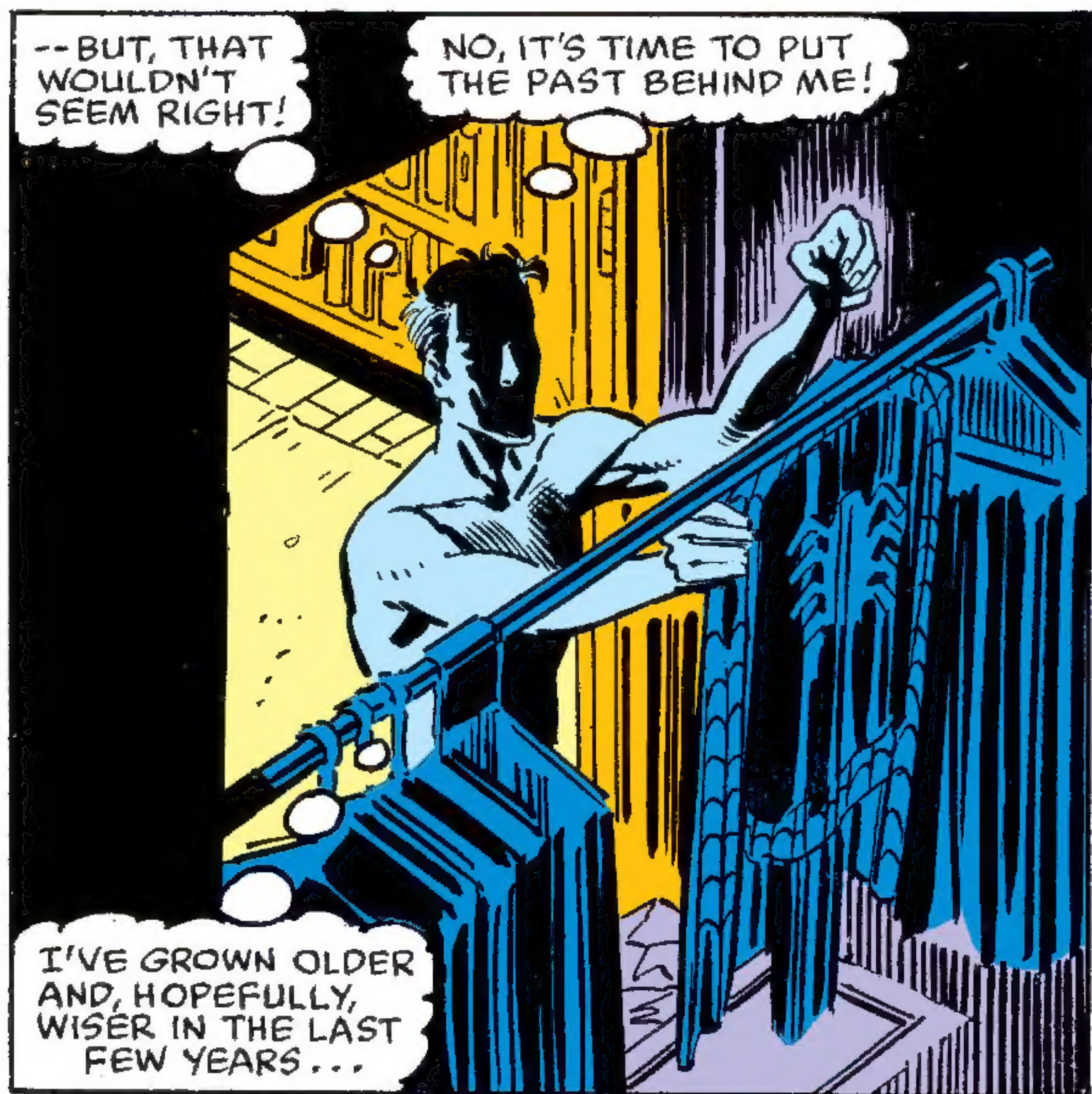
*SEE THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES FOR DETAILS -- DANNY!



"IT'S REALLY WEIRD TO HAVE A PIECE OF CLOTHING WHICH OBEYS MY MENTAL COMMANDS --AND ASSUMES ANY APPEARANCE I IMAGINE!"



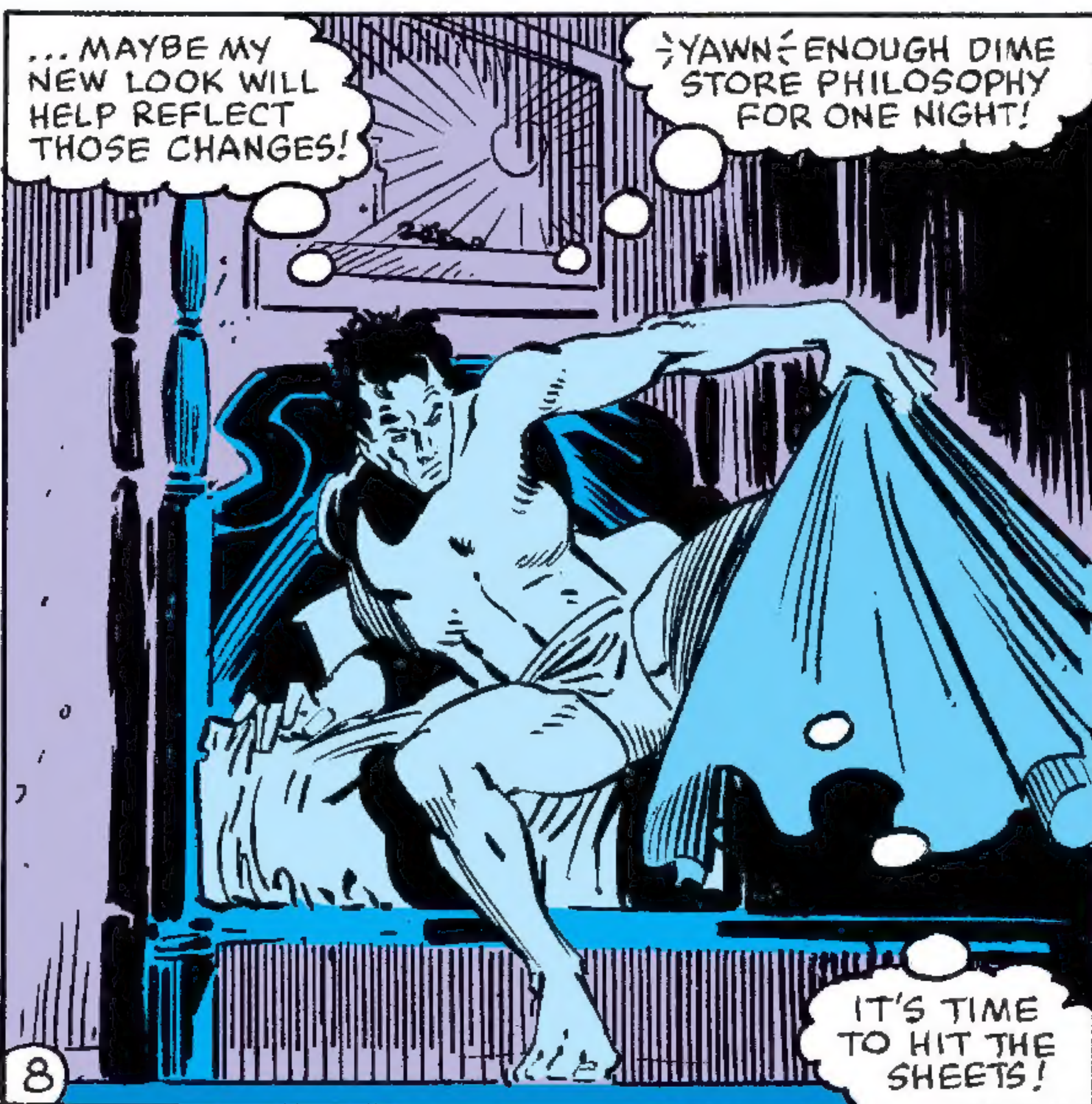
"I GUESS I COULD MAKE IT LOOK LIKE MY OLD, FAMILIAR RED AND BLUE THREADS--"



-- BUT, THAT WOULDN'T SEEM RIGHT!

NO, IT'S TIME TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND ME!

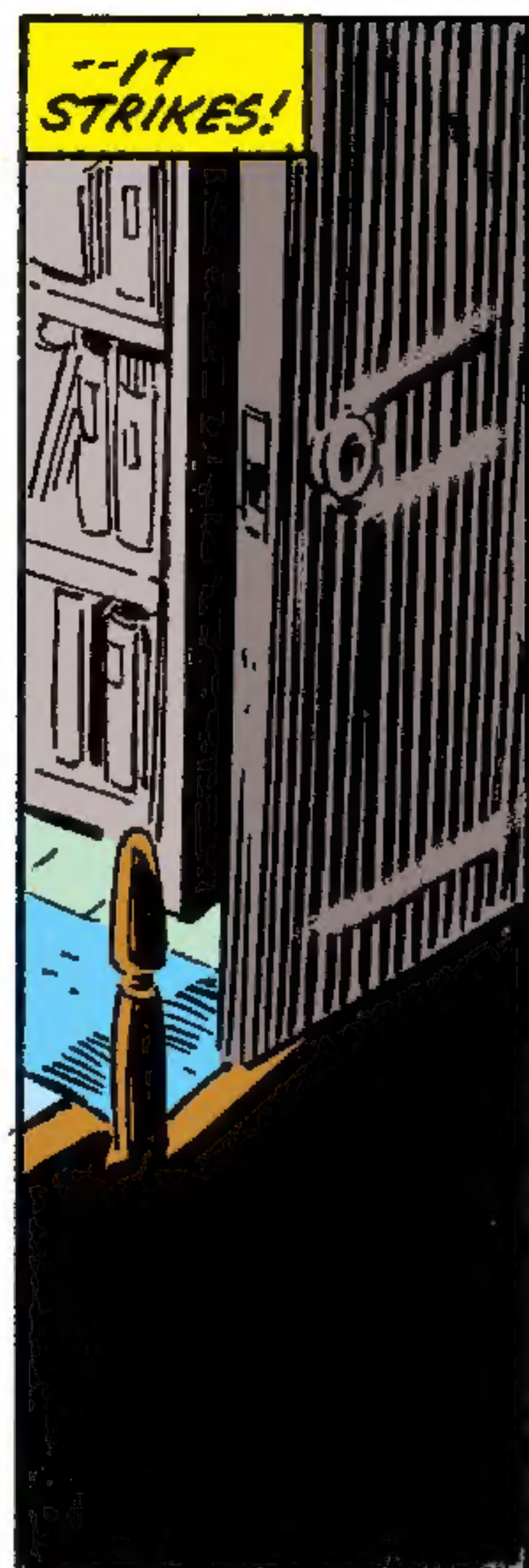
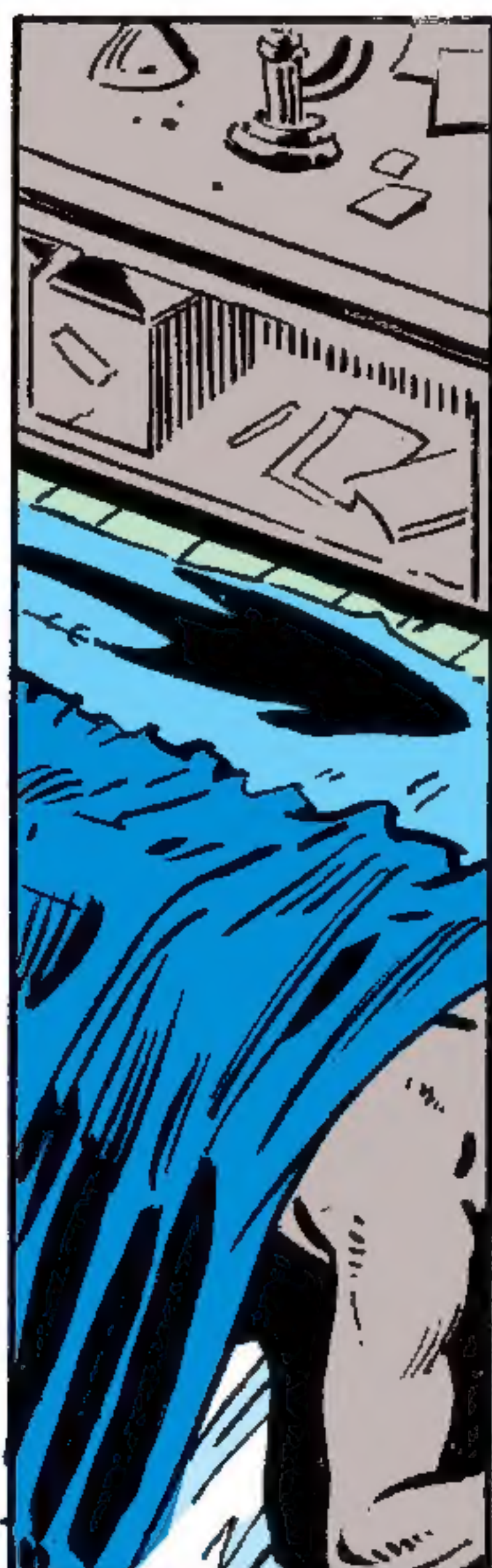
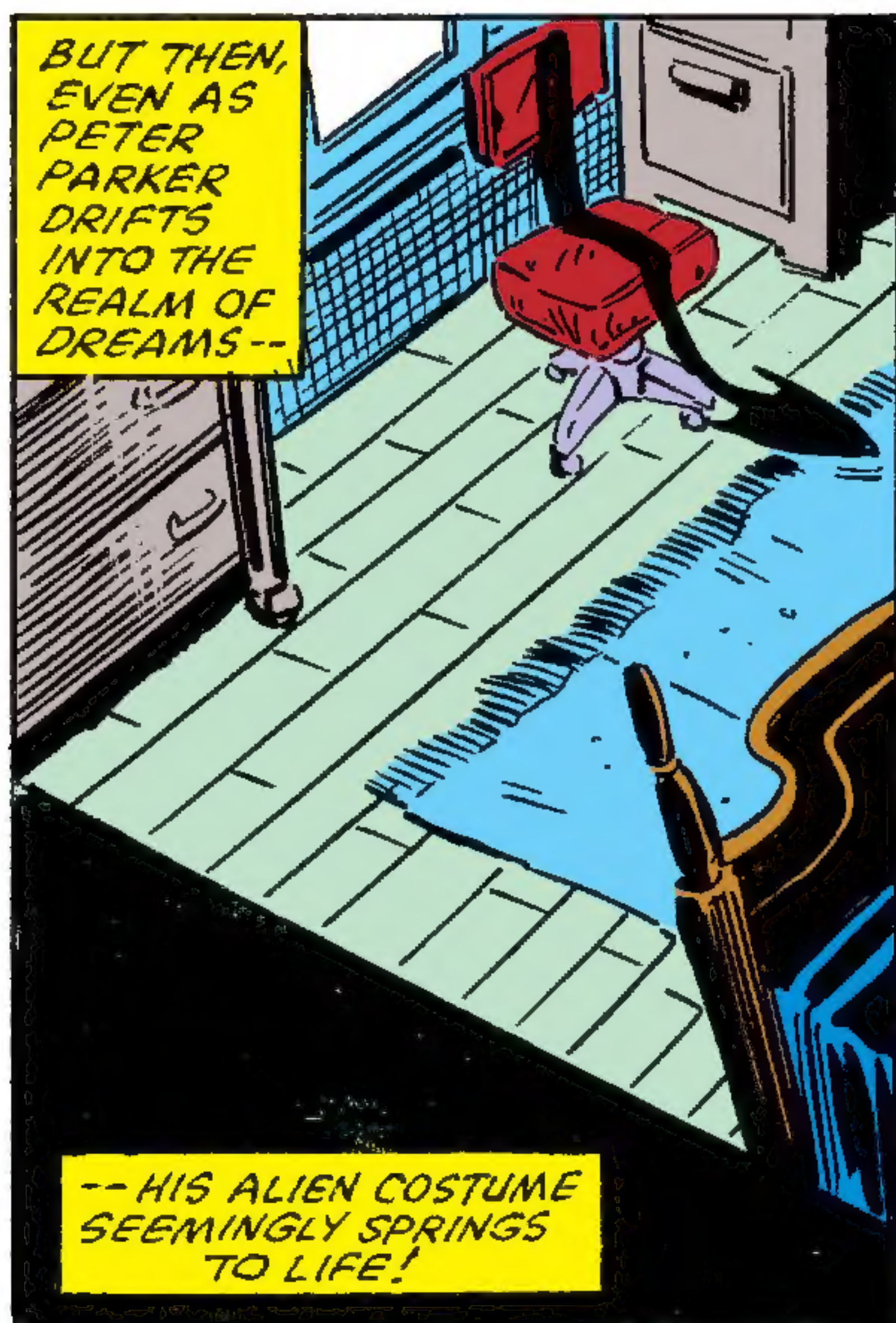
I'VE GROWN OLDER AND, HOPEFULLY, WISER IN THE LAST FEW YEARS...

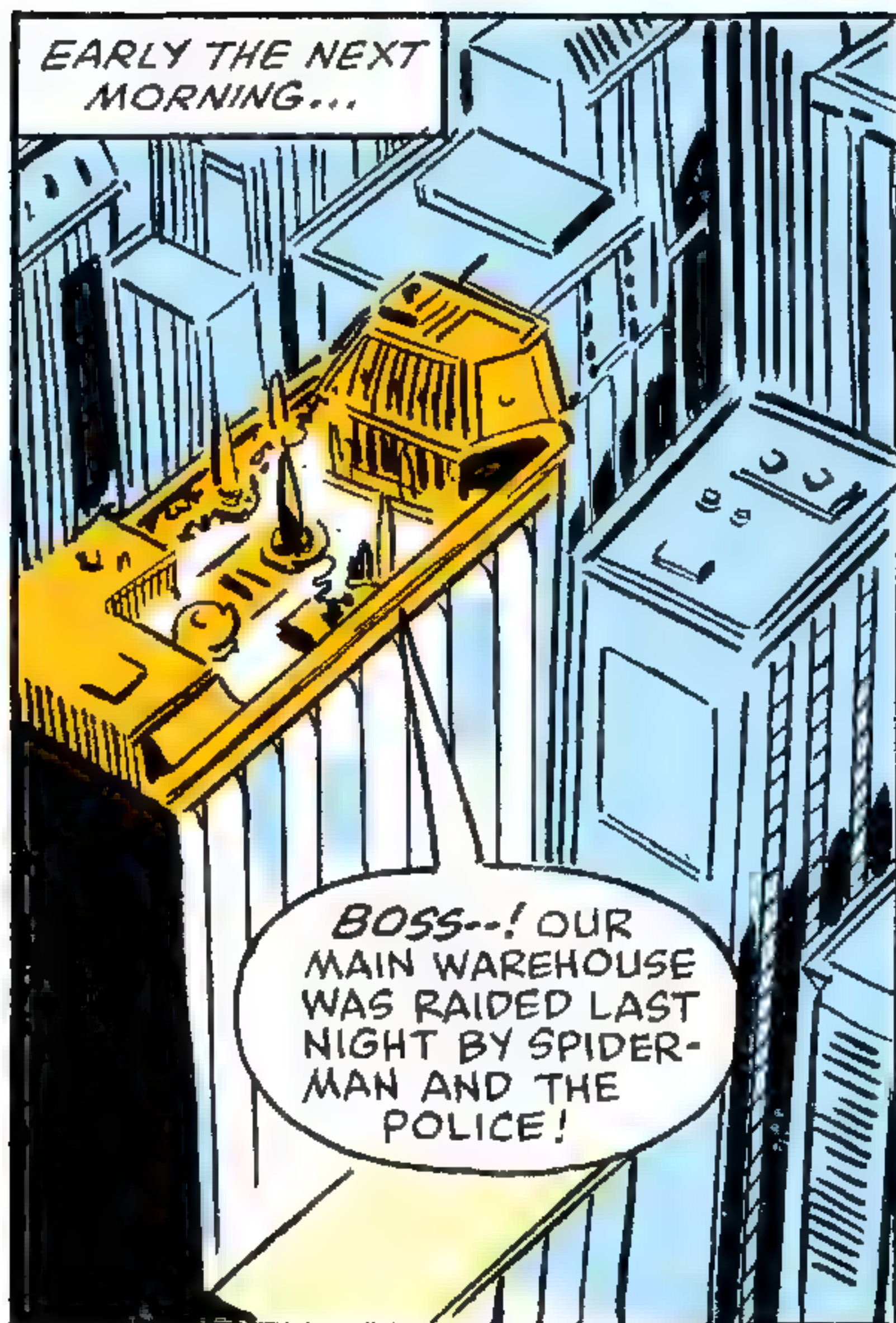


... MAYBE MY NEW LOOK WILL HELP REFLECT THOSE CHANGES!

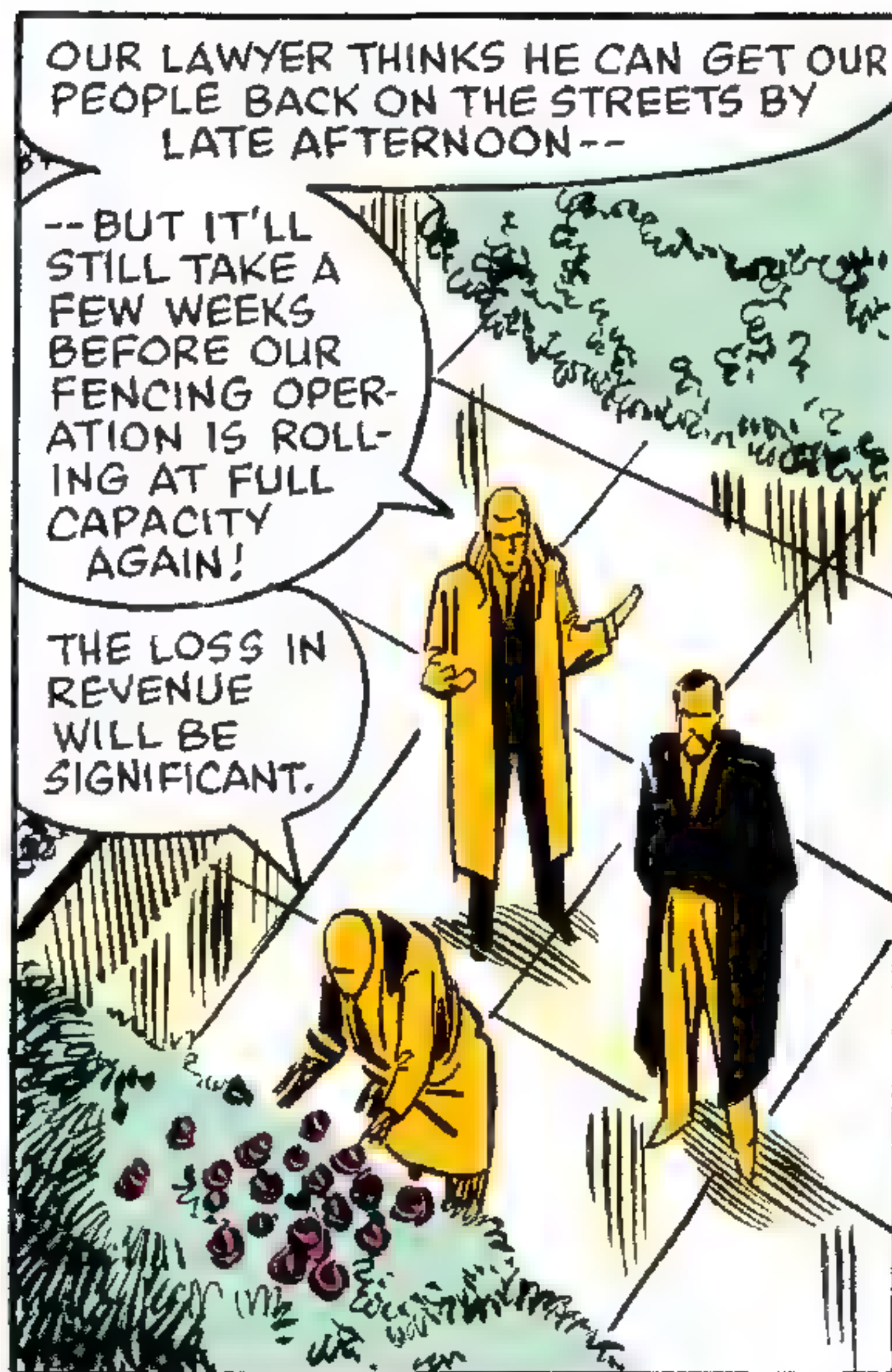
YAWN-- ENOUGH DIME STORE PHILOSOPHY FOR ONE NIGHT!

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE SHEETS!





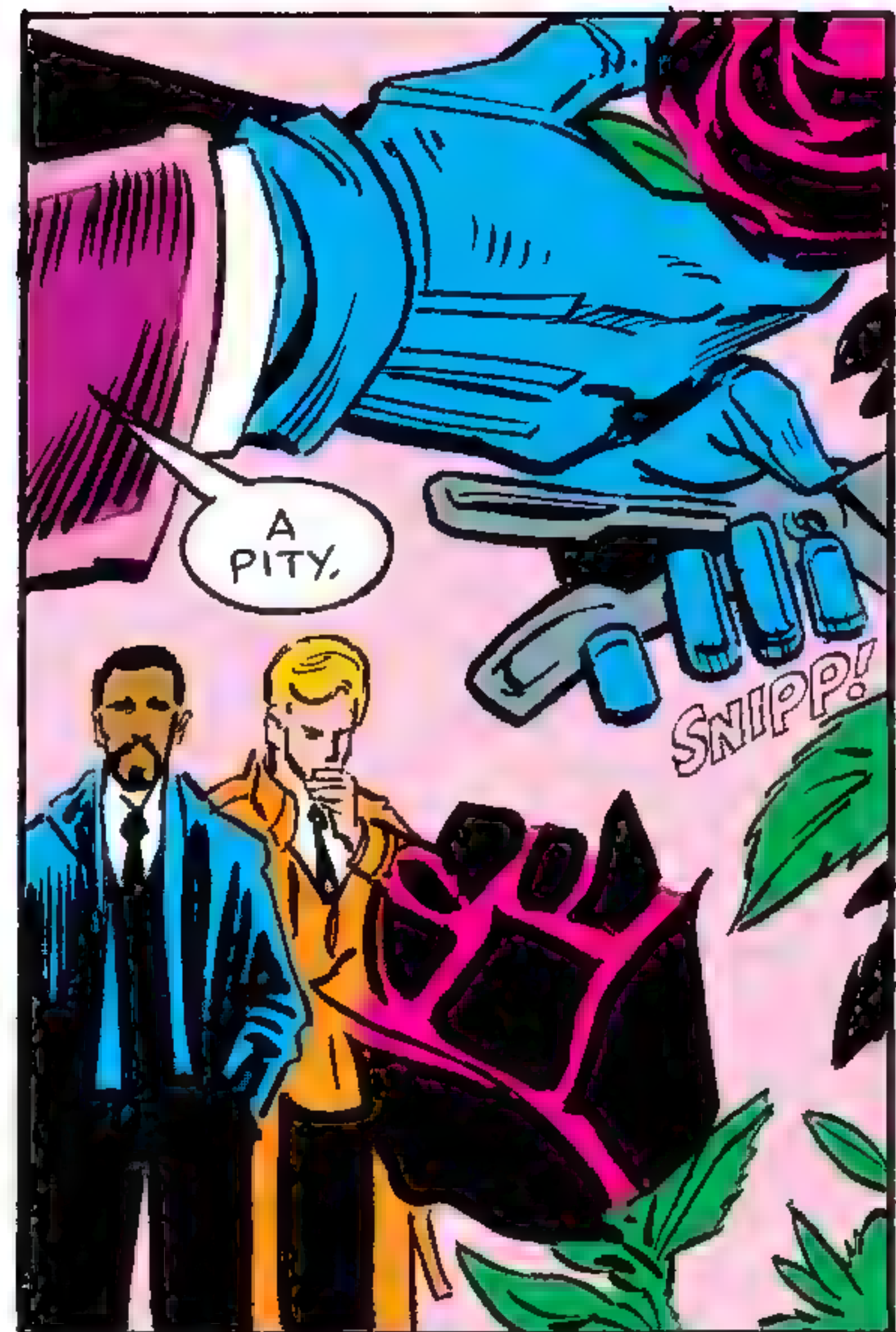
BOSS--! OUR MAIN WAREHOUSE WAS RAIDED LAST NIGHT BY SPIDER-MAN AND THE POLICE!



OUR LAWYER THINKS HE CAN GET OUR PEOPLE BACK ON THE STREETS BY LATE AFTERNOON--

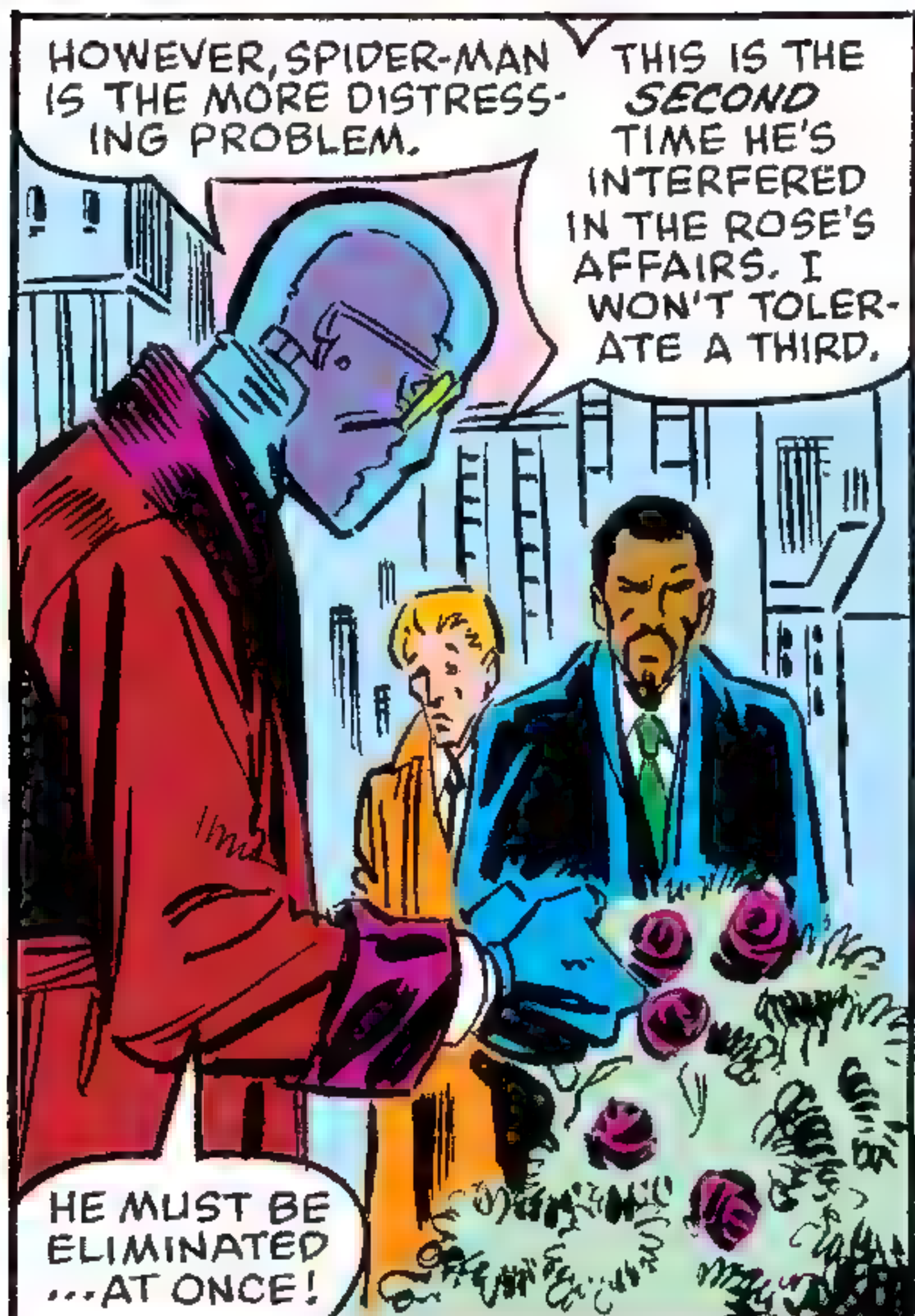
--BUT IT'LL STILL TAKE A FEW WEEKS BEFORE OUR FENCING OPERATION IS ROLLING AT FULL CAPACITY AGAIN!

THE LOSS IN REVENUE WILL BE SIGNIFICANT.



A PITY.

SNIPP!



HOWEVER, SPIDER-MAN IS THE MORE DISTRESSING PROBLEM.

THIS IS THE **SECOND** TIME HE'S INTERFERED IN THE ROSE'S AFFAIRS. I WON'T TOLERATE A THIRD.

HE MUST BE ELIMINATED...AT ONCE!

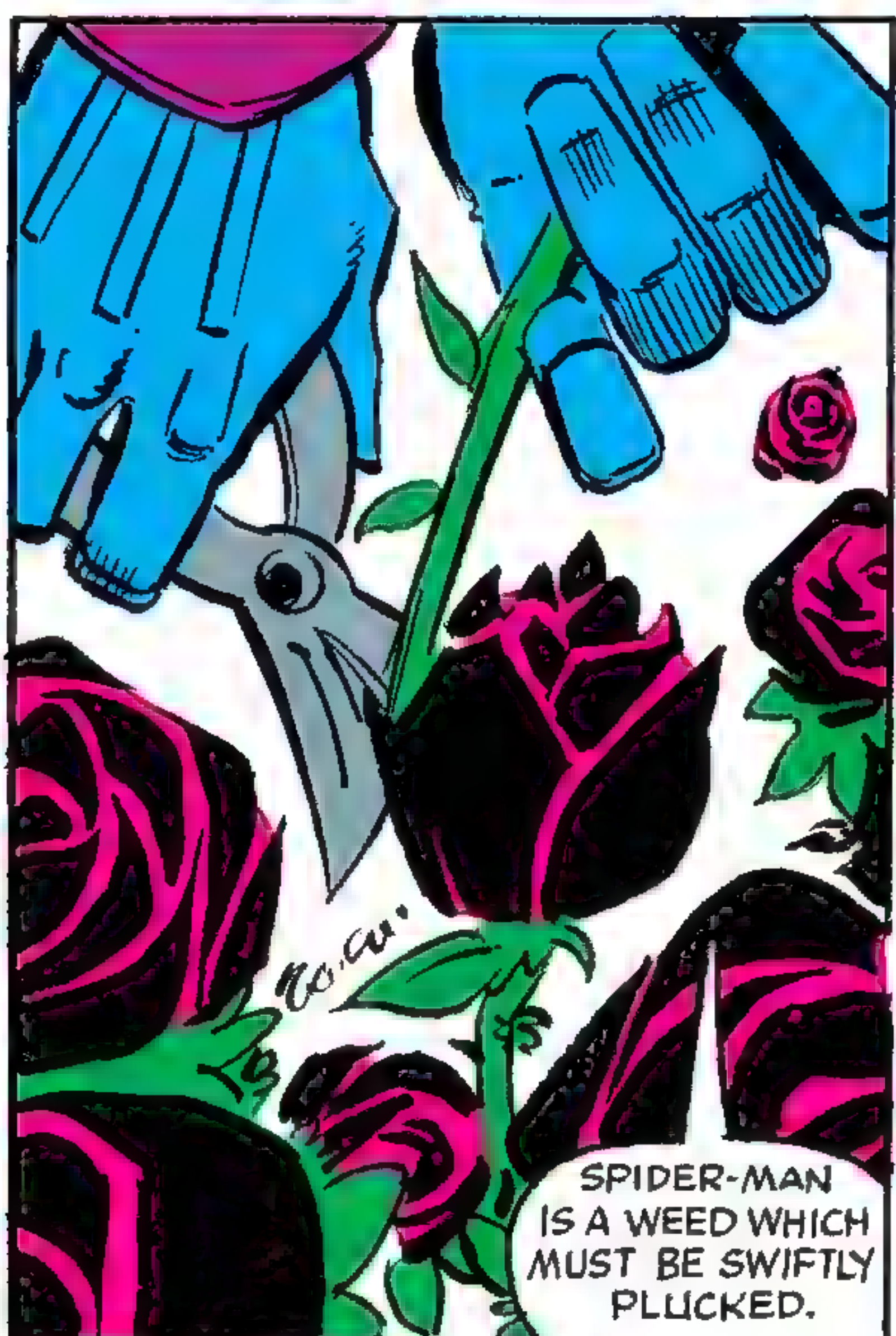


IS THAT WISE, ROSE?

I THOUGHT THE KINGPIN HAD TO SANCTION ALL HITS *THAT* BIG!



MR. JOHNSTON, I REPORT TO THE KINGPIN OF CRIME JUST AS YOU AND MR. VARLEY REPORT TO ME... BUT, IN THIS ONE INSTANCE, I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THE LUXURY OF GOING THROUGH THE PROPER CHANNELS.



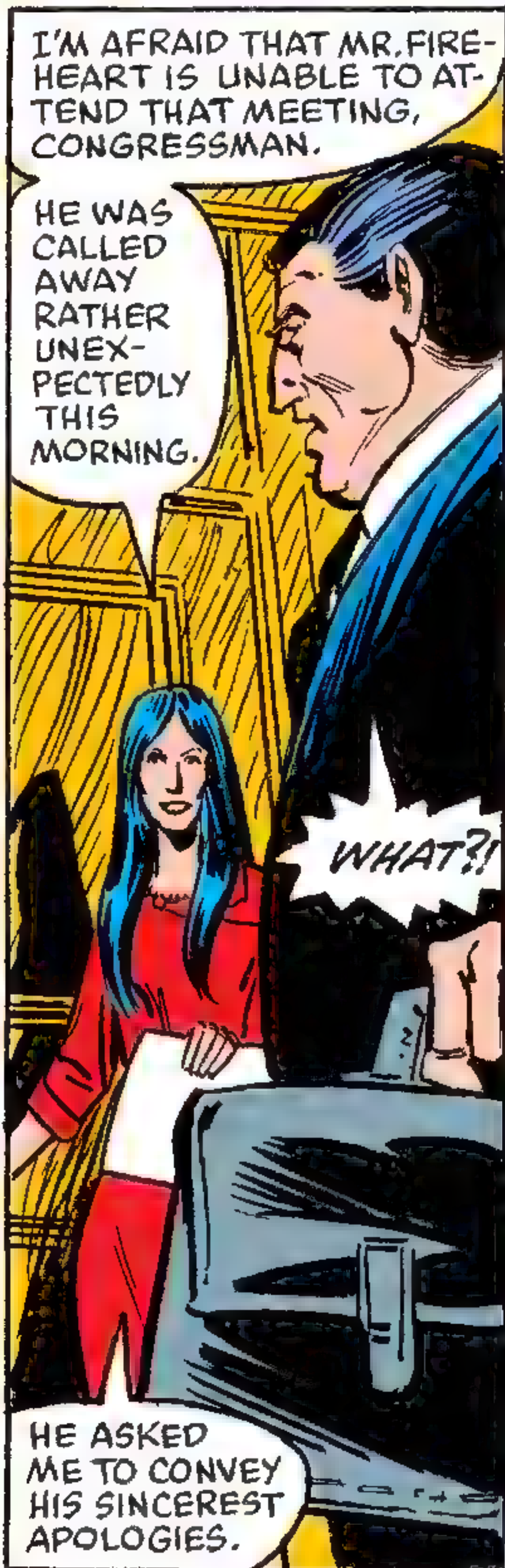
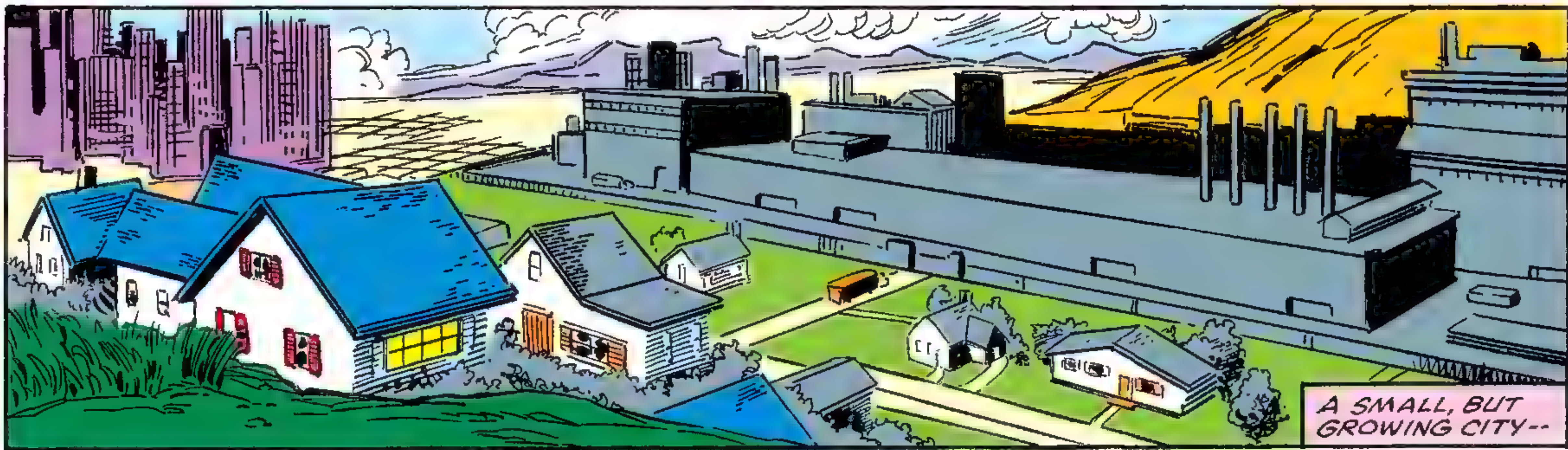
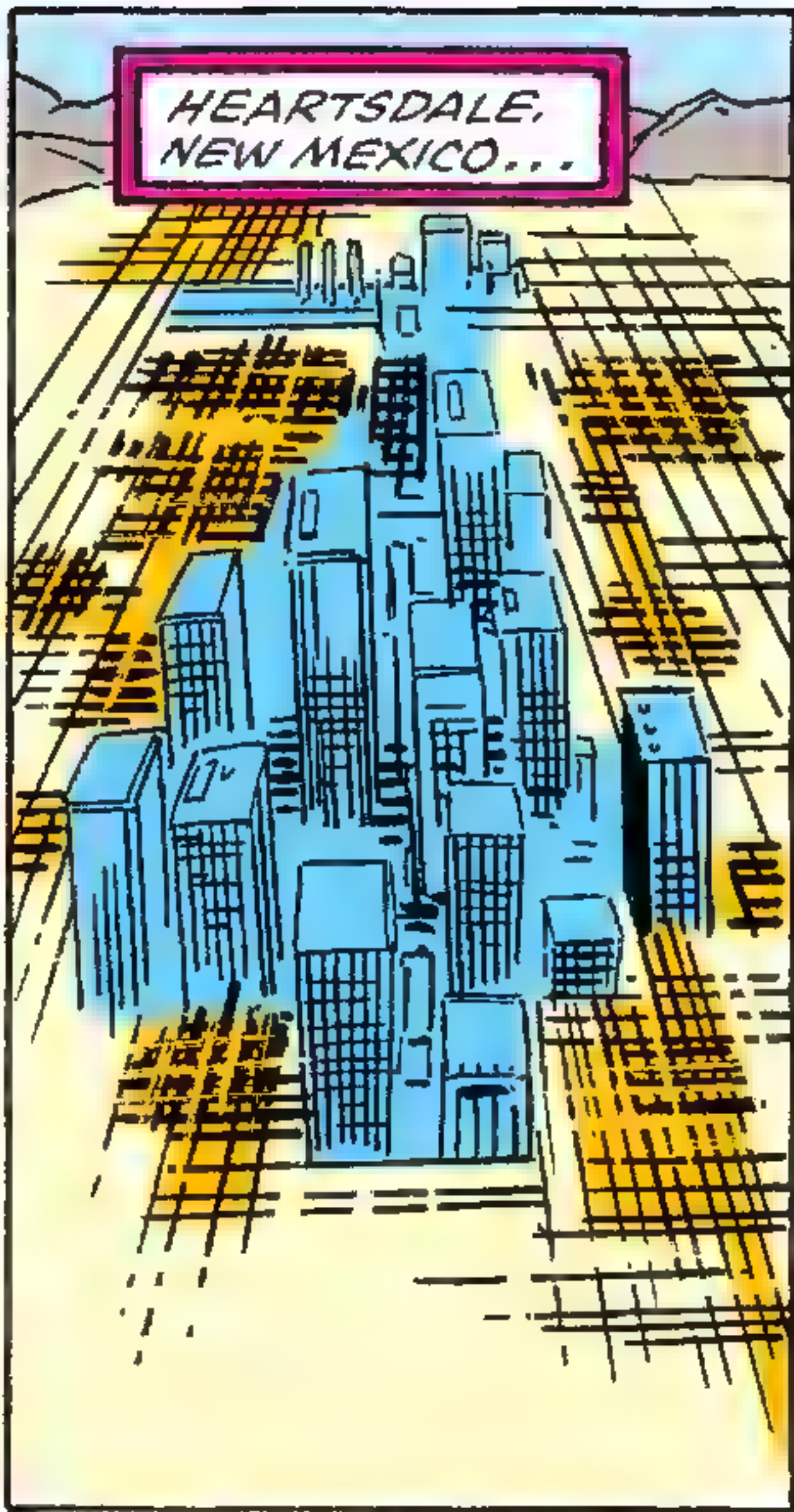
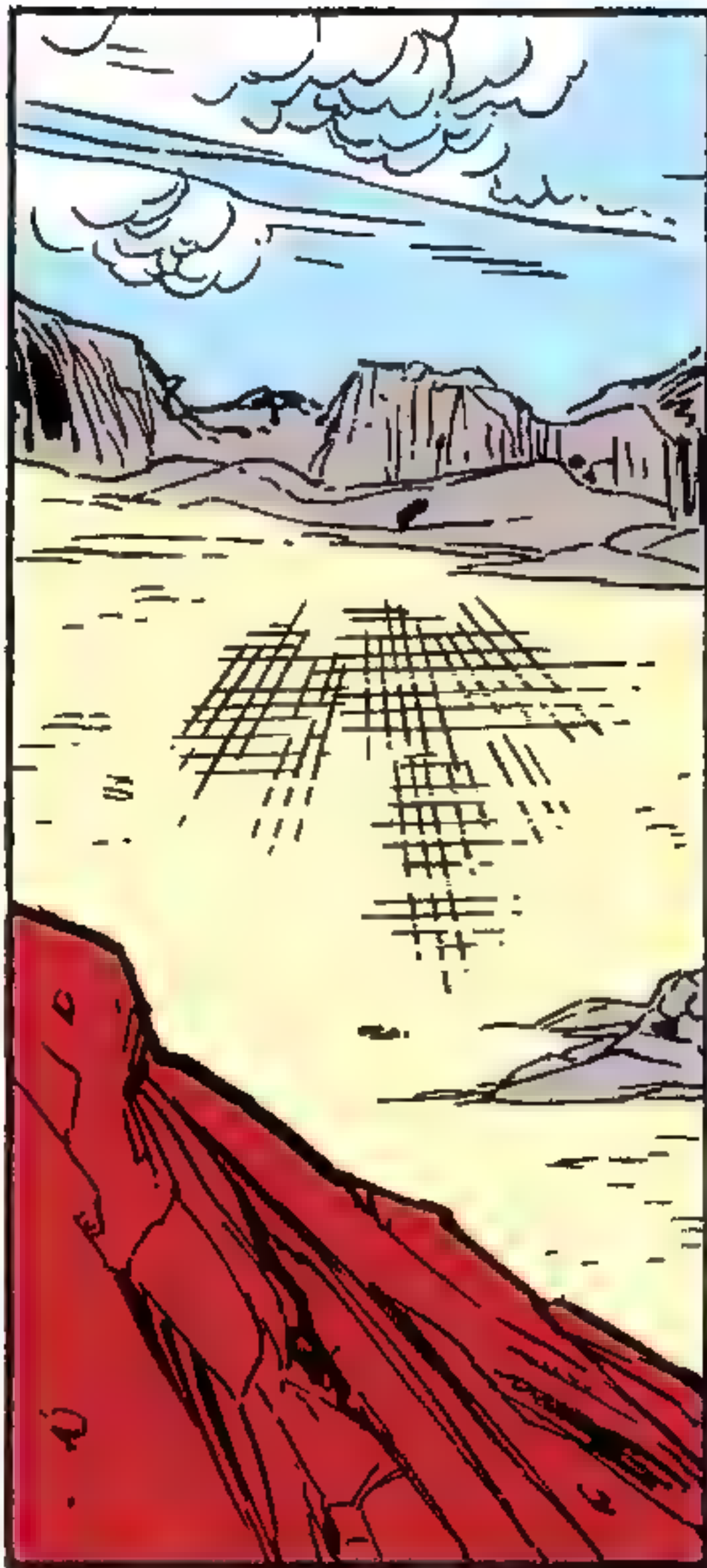
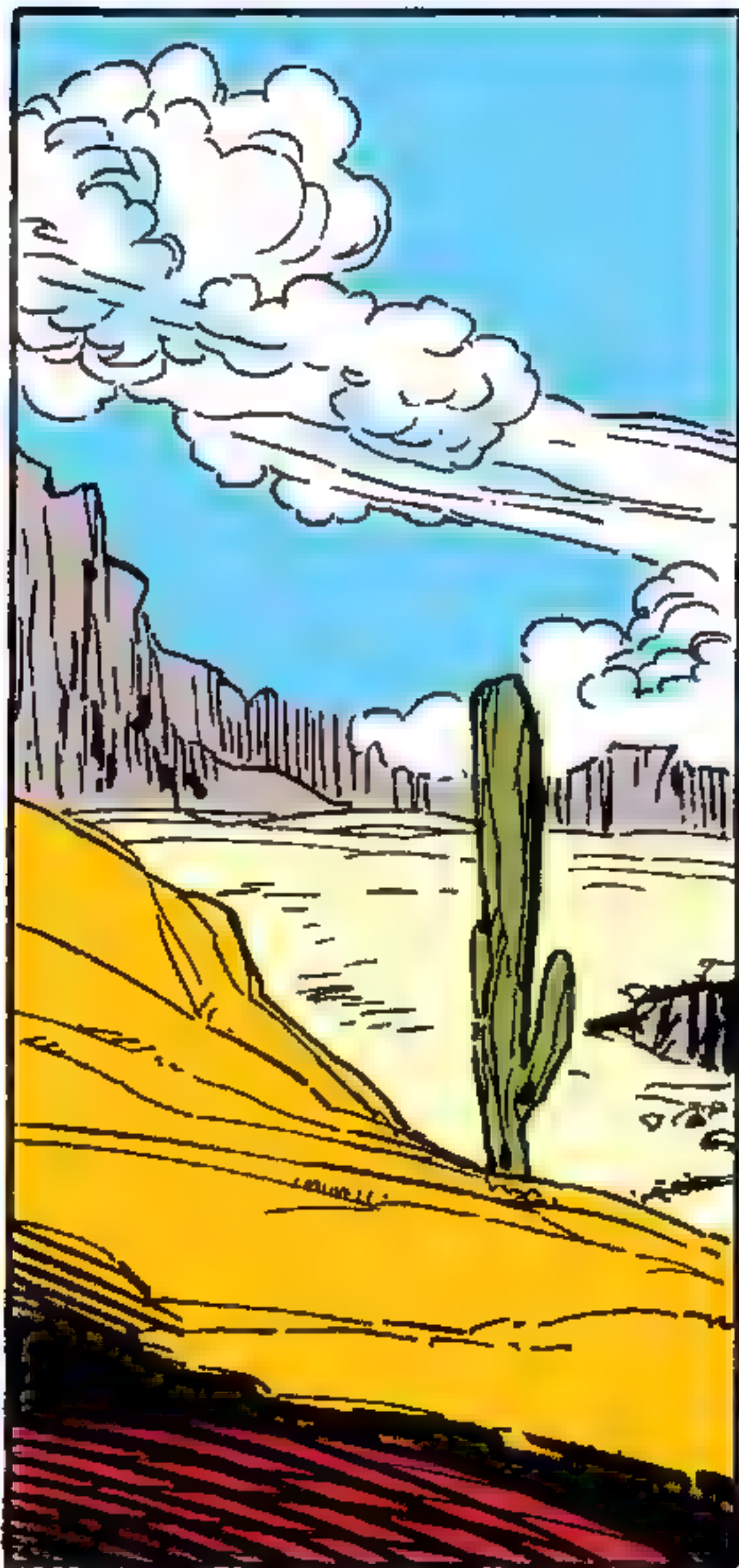
SPIDER-MAN IS A WEED WHICH MUST BE SWIFTLY PLUCKED.

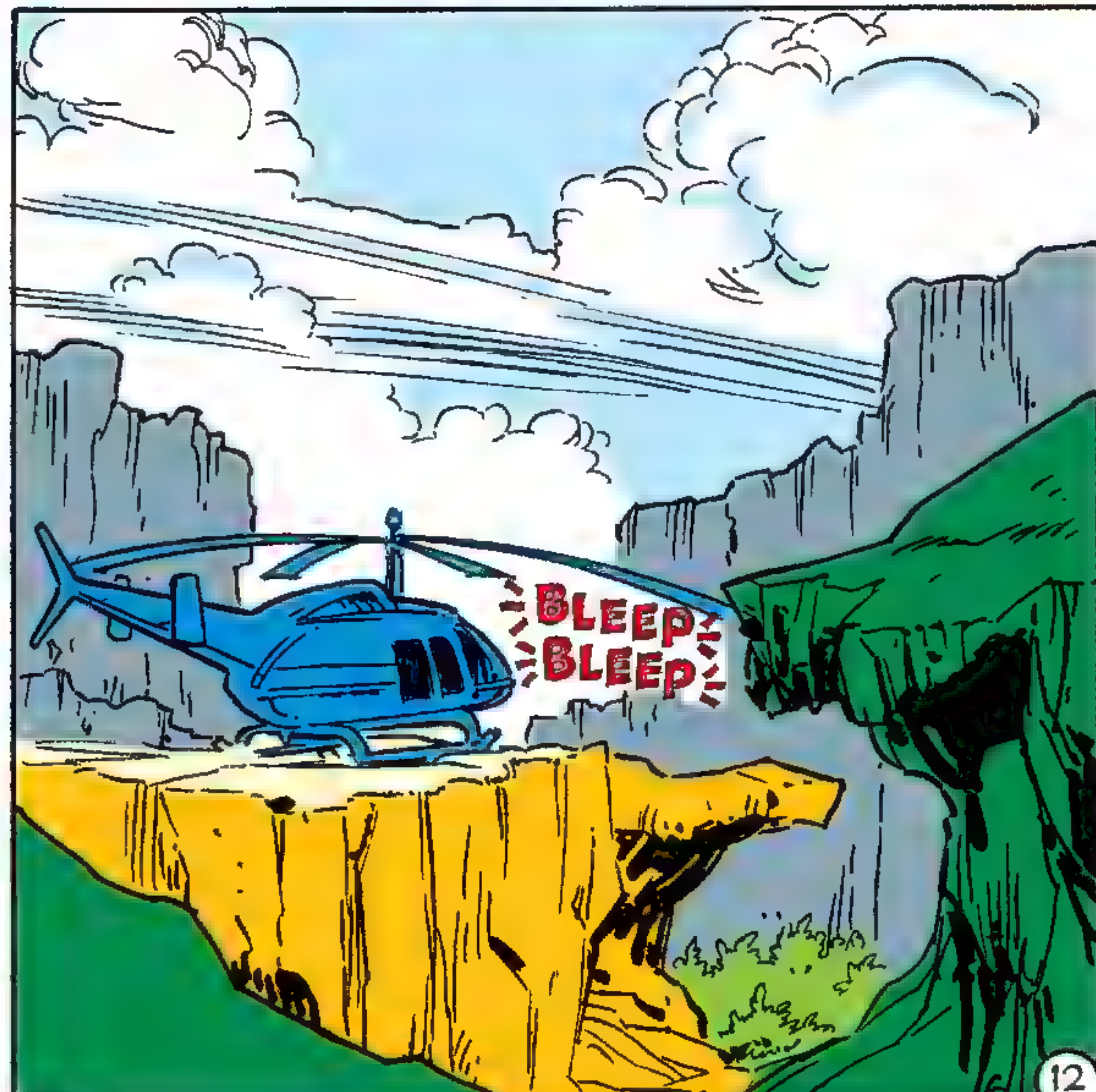
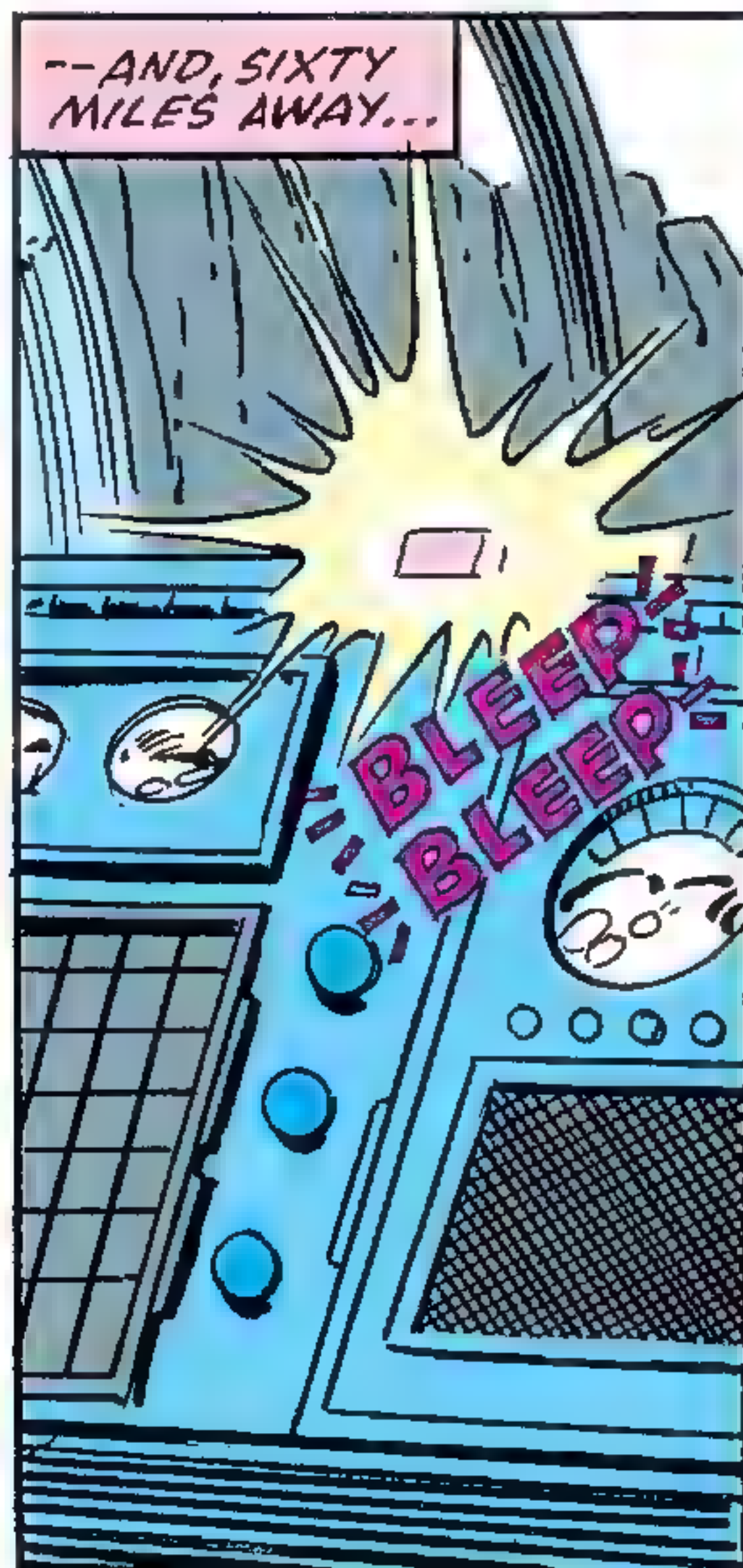
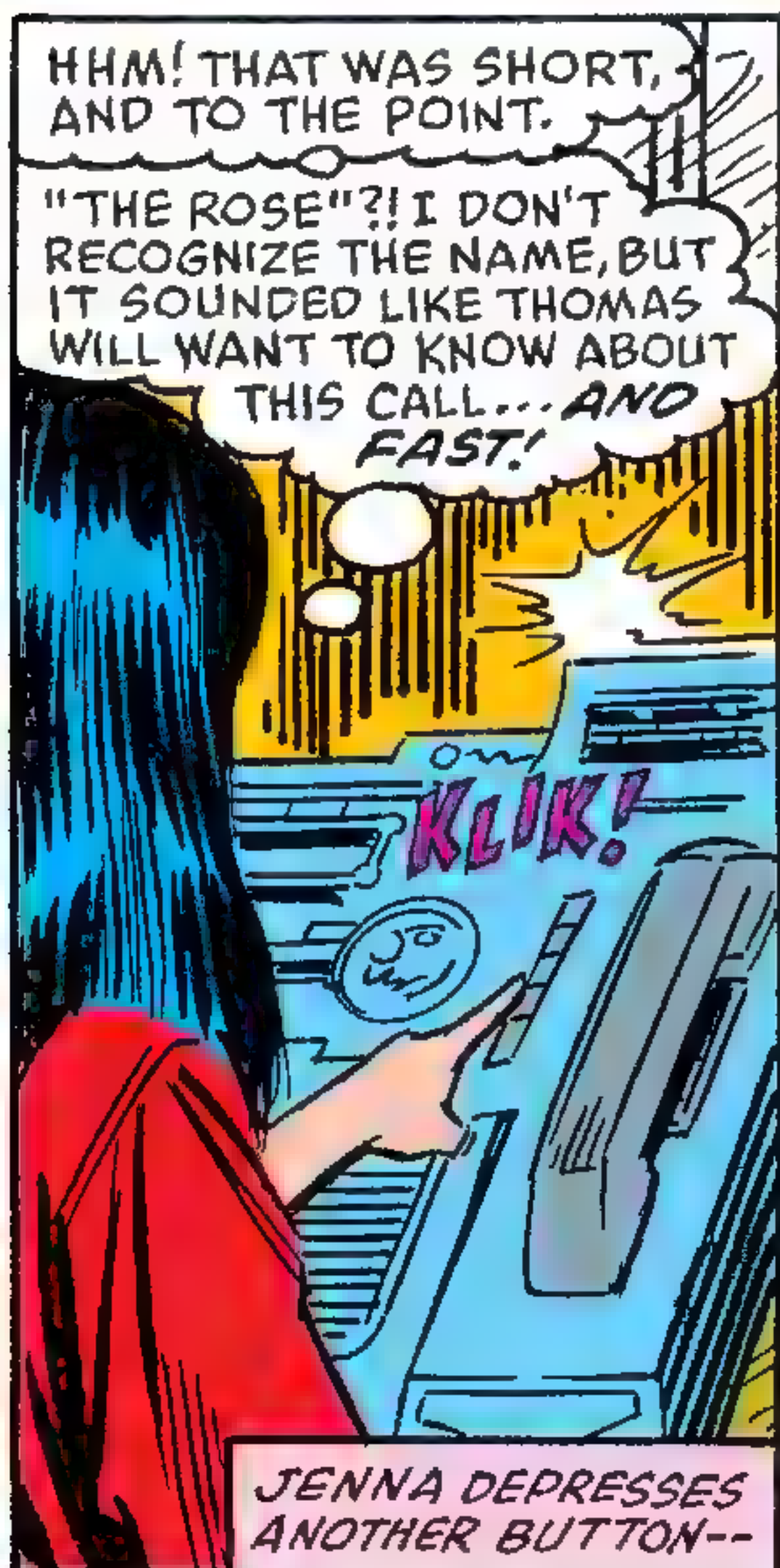
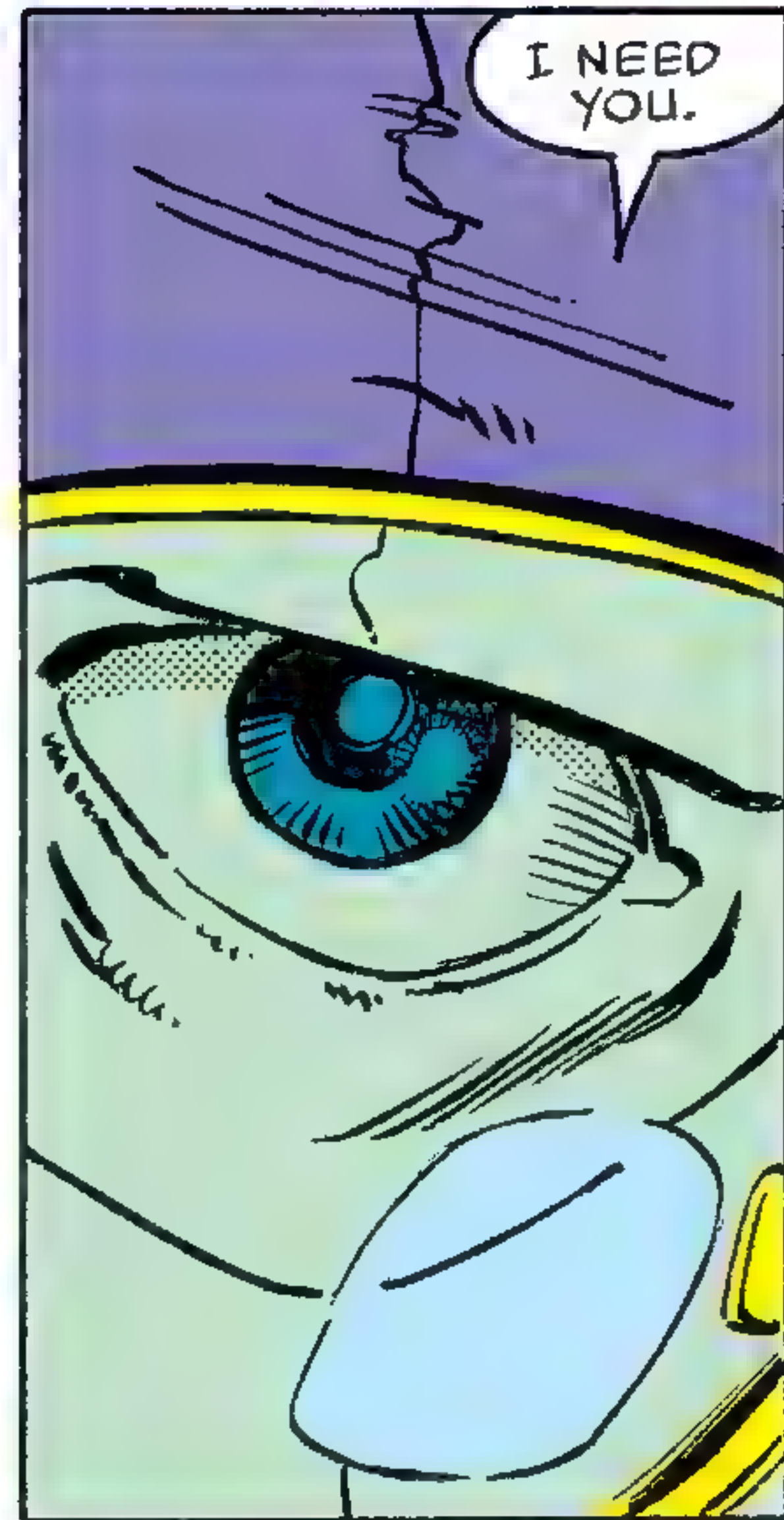
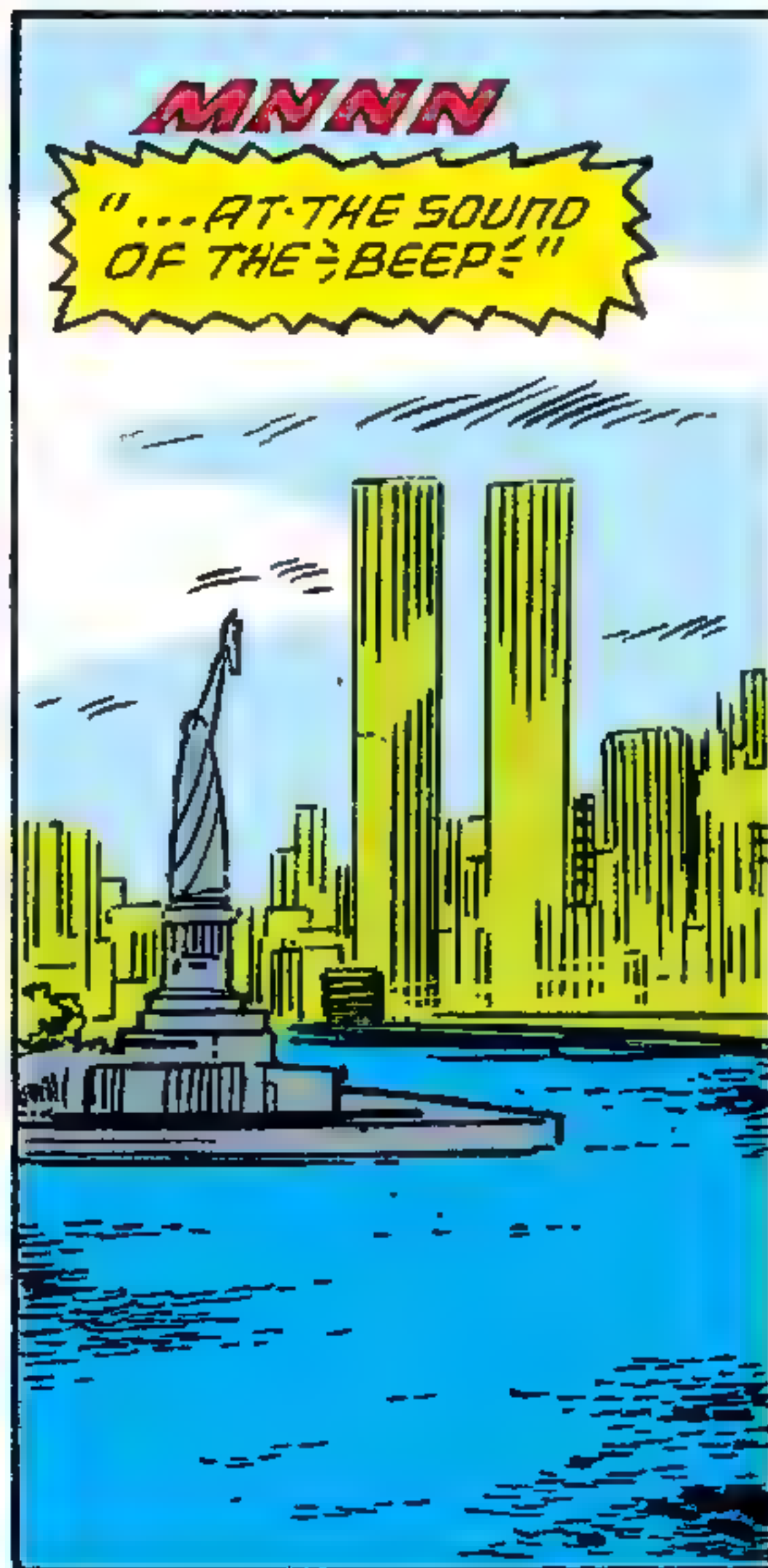
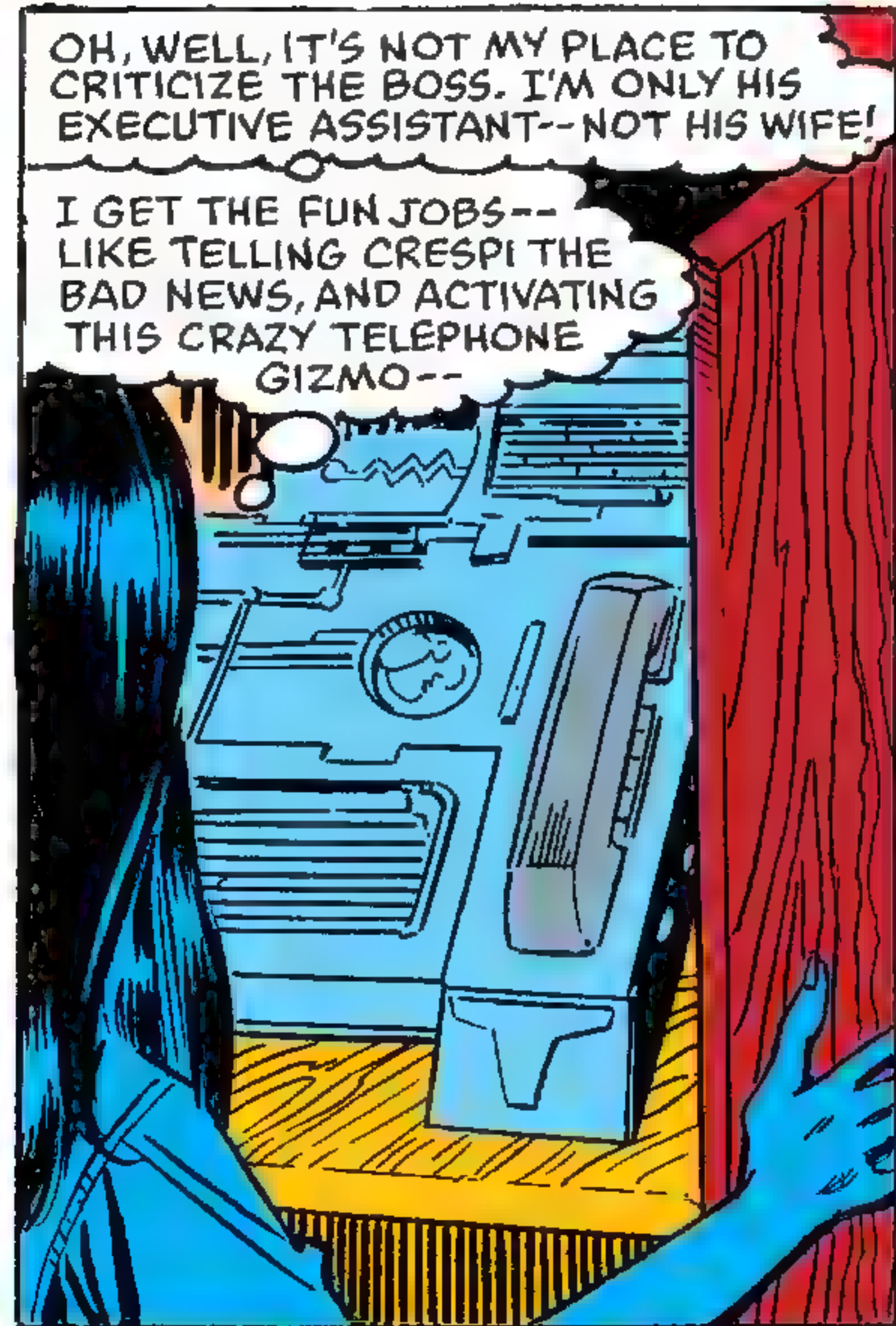


I WANT HIM DEAD!



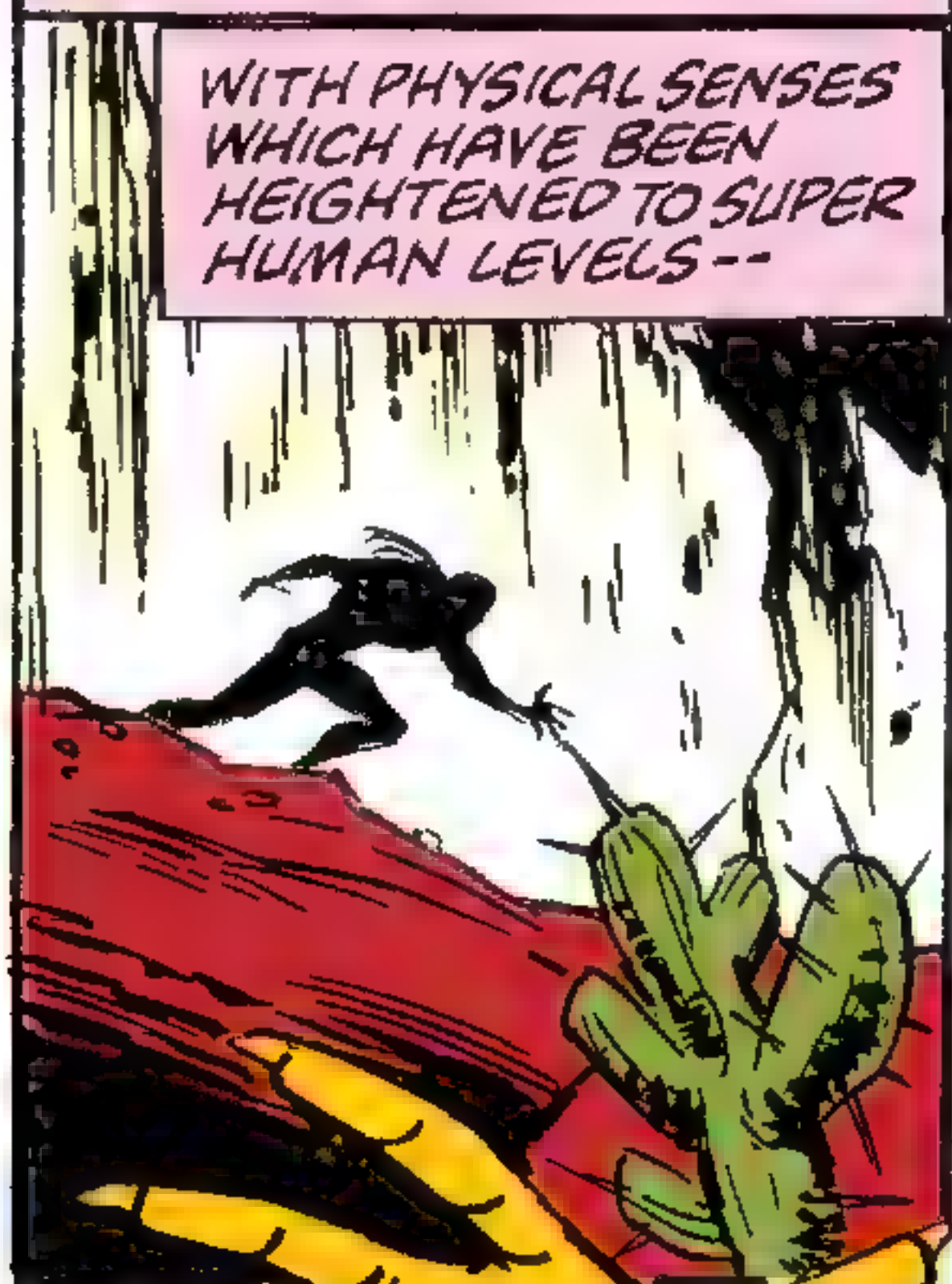
AND, I KNOW JUST THE MAN FOR THE JOB...





MEANWHILE, SEVERAL HUNDRED YARDS FROM THE HELICOPTER, A MANLIKE FIGURE RACES ALONG THE UNEVEN GROUND.

WITH PHYSICAL SENSES WHICH HAVE BEEN HEIGHTENED TO SUPER HUMAN LEVELS--



--HE FOLLOWS A SPOOR THAT WOULD BE TOTALLY INVISIBLE TO MOST HUMAN TRACKERS!

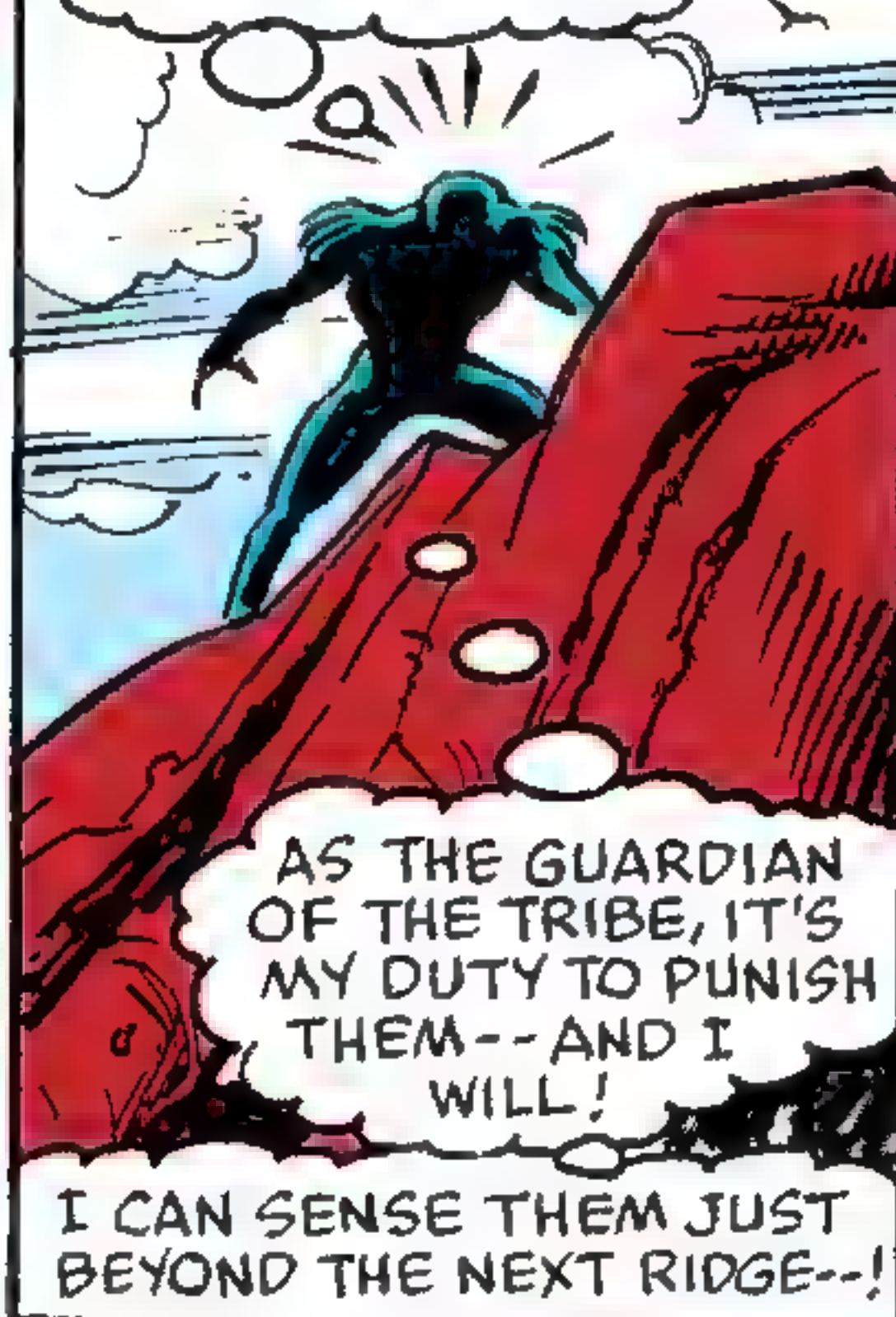
THEY DON'T KNOW IT YET-- BUT THEY'RE GOING TO DIE FOR WHAT THEY DID LAST NIGHT!



IT'S THEIR OWN FAULT! THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE ENTERED THE RESERVATION --AND SLAUGHTERED THOSE ANIMALS!

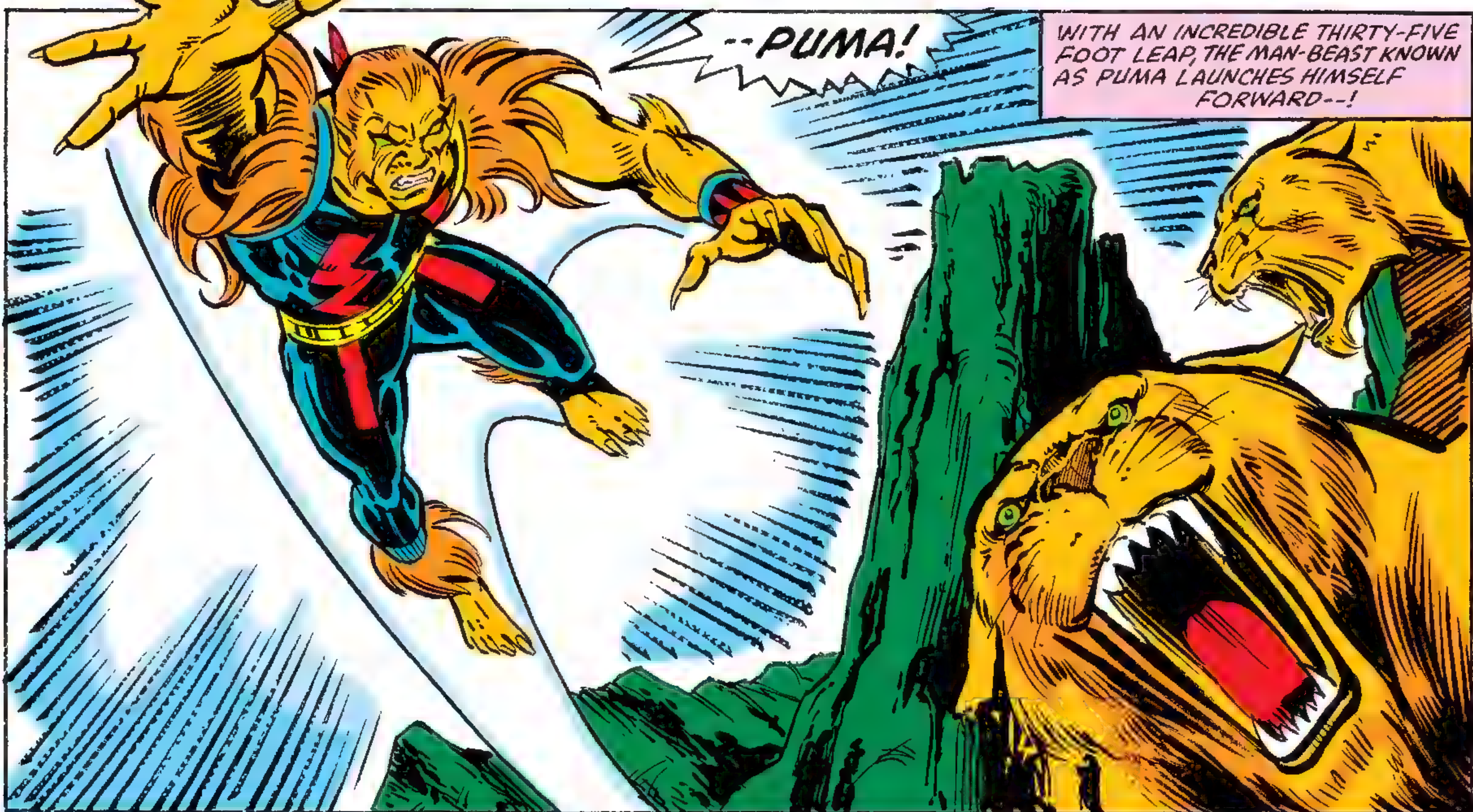
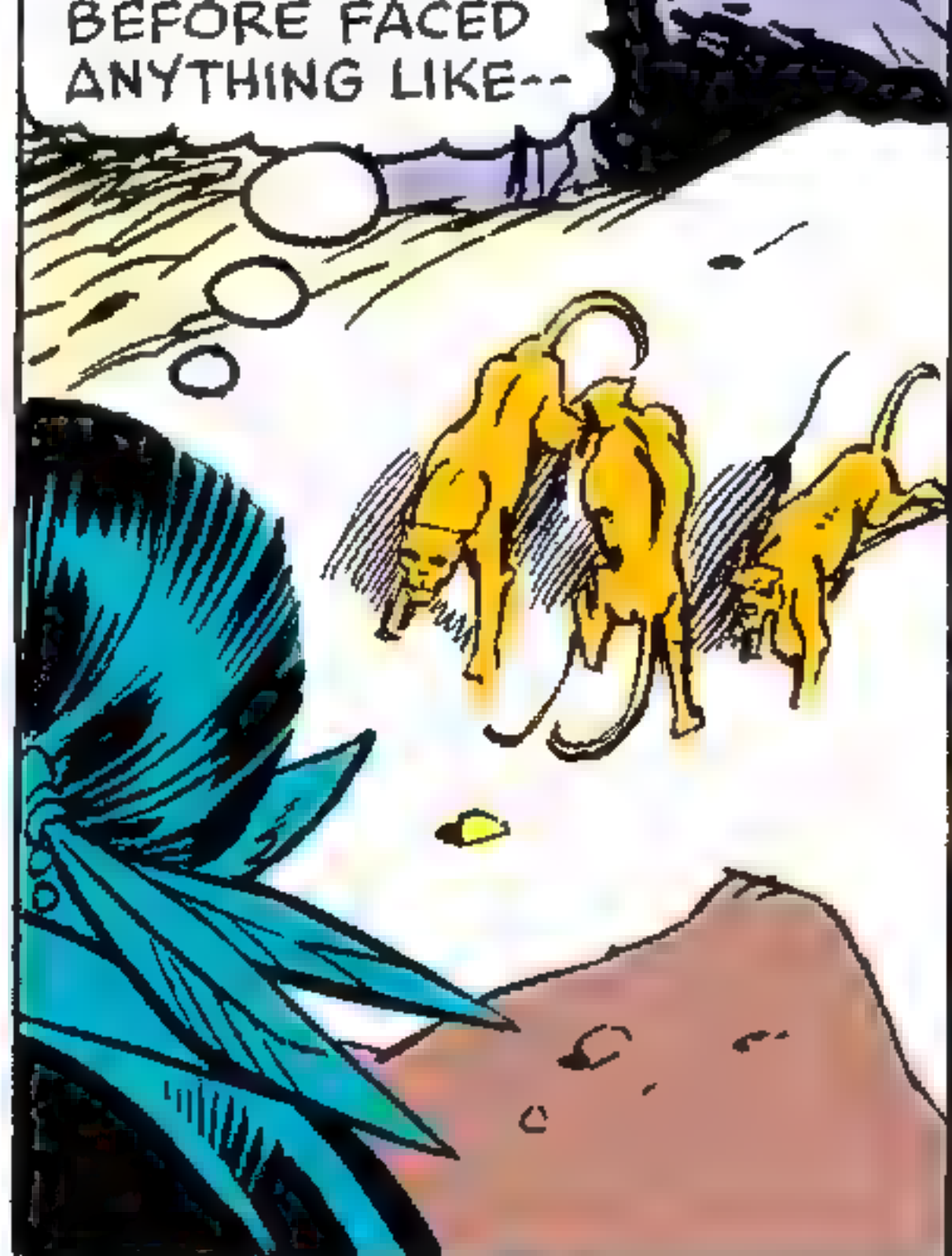
AS THE GUARDIAN OF THE TRIBE, IT'S MY DUTY TO PUNISH THEM-- AND I WILL!

I CAN SENSE THEM JUST BEYOND THE NEXT RIDGE--!



THEY'RE CONFUSED! FRIGHTENED! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF MY SCENT!

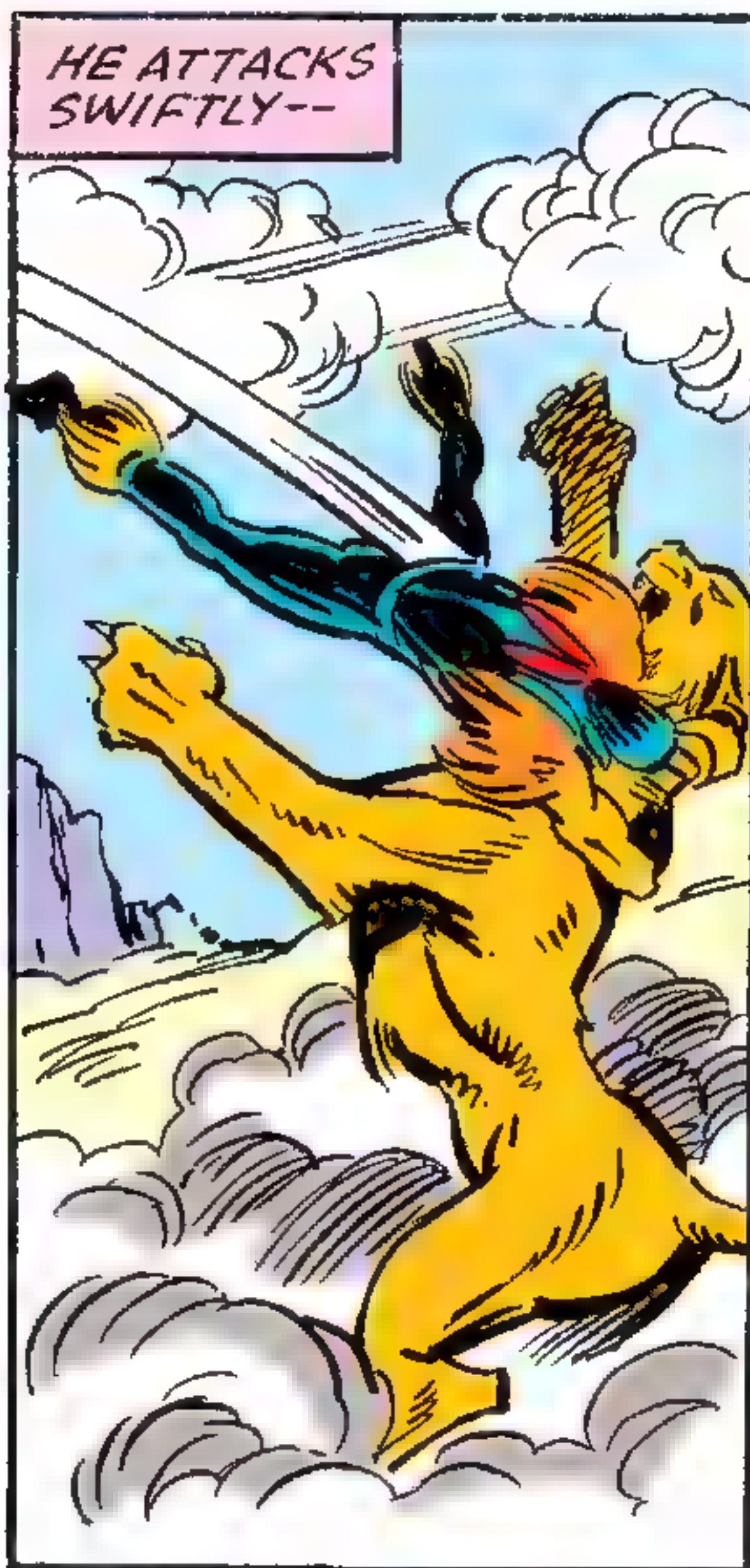
THEY'VE NEVER BEFORE FACED ANYTHING LIKE--



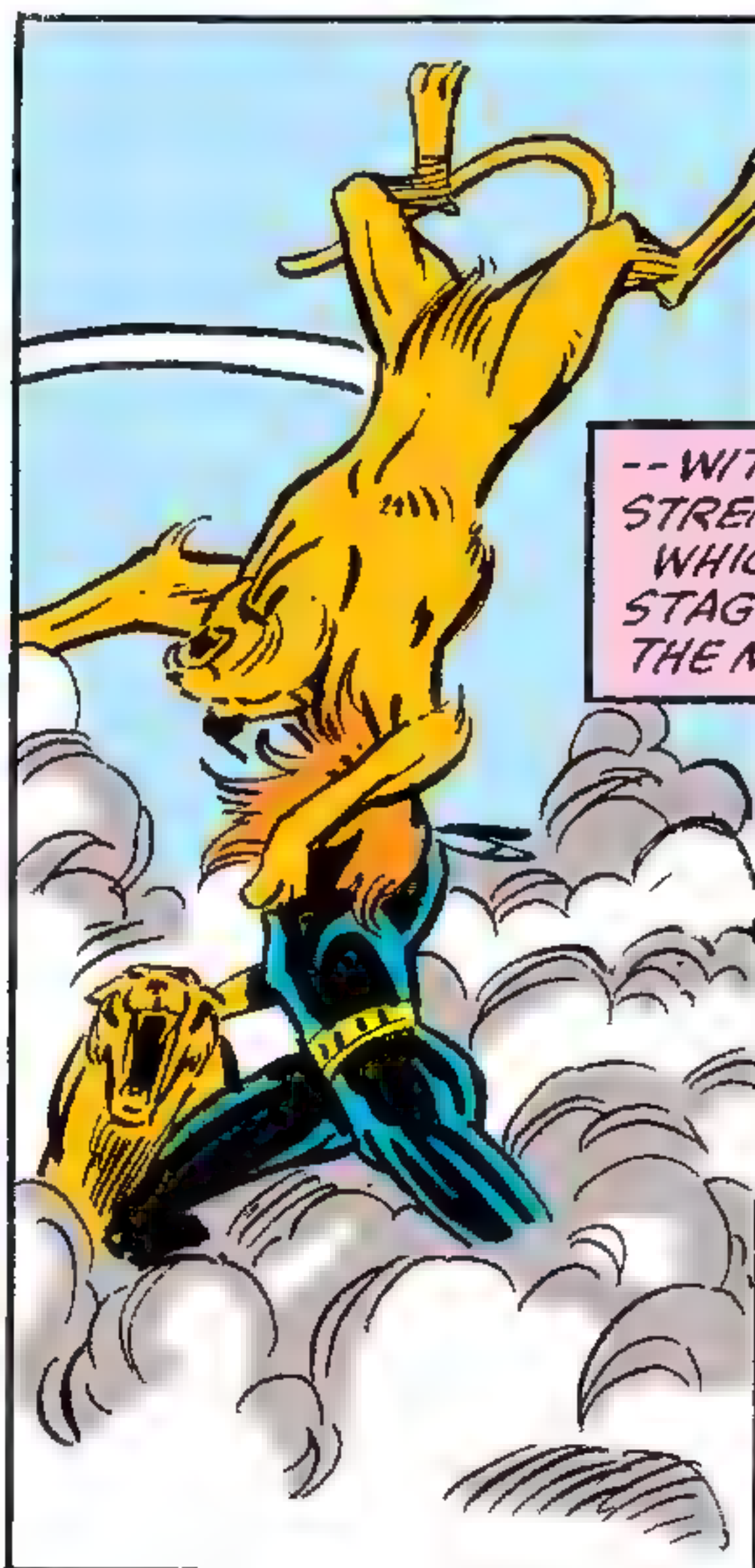
--PUMA!

WITH AN INCREDIBLE THIRTY-FIVE FOOT LEAP, THE MAN-BEAST KNOWN AS PUMA LAUNCHES HIMSELF FORWARD--!

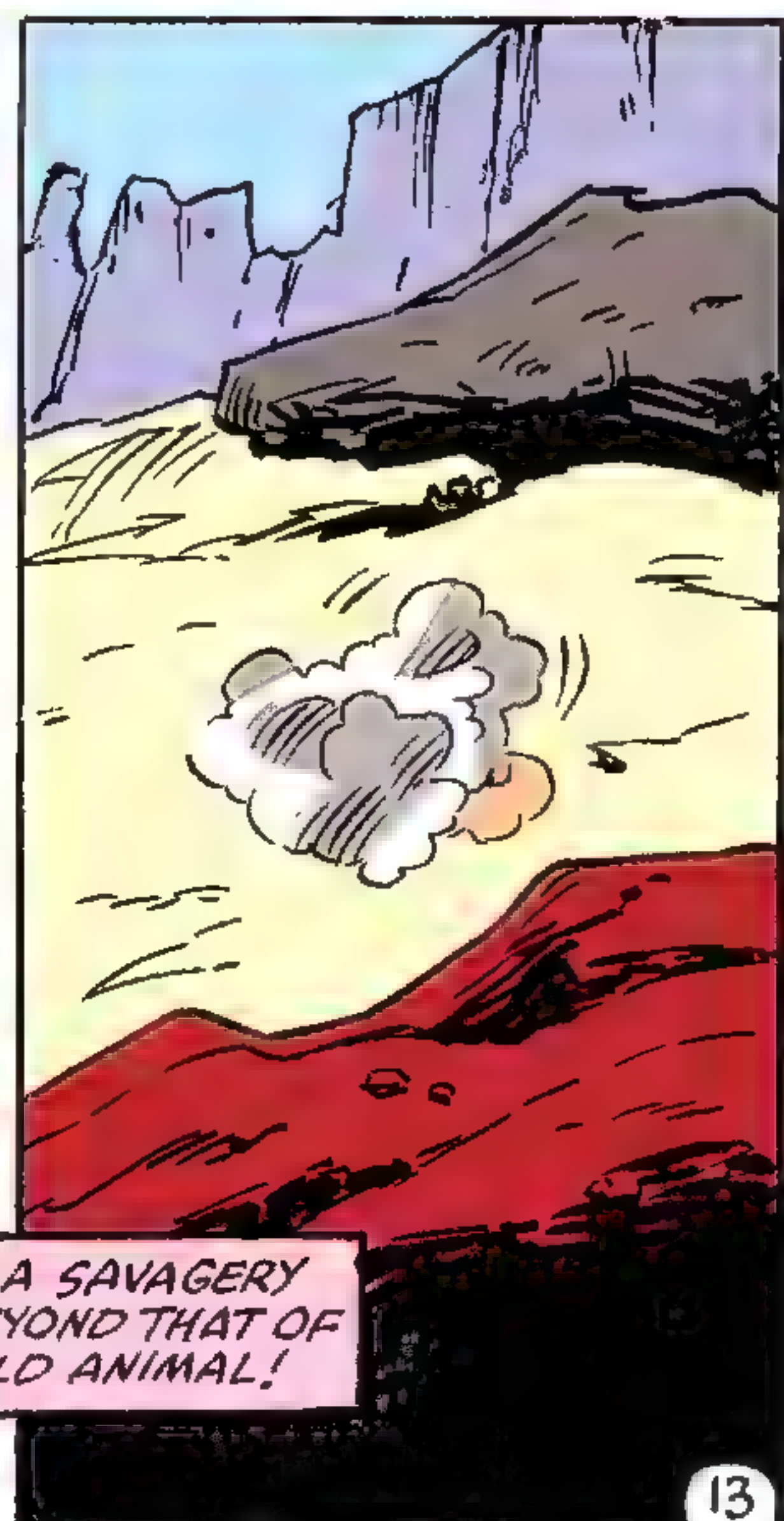
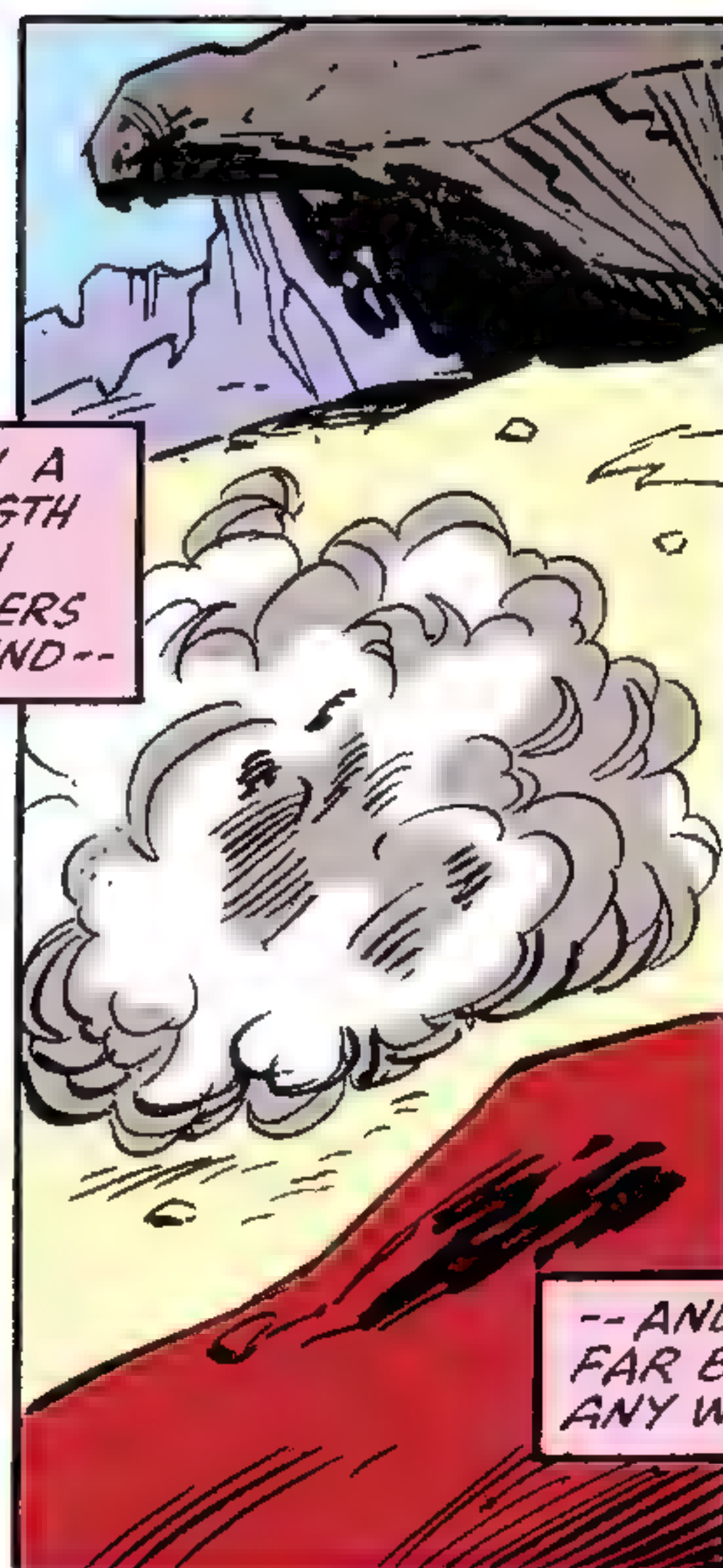
HE ATTACKS SWIFTLY--



--WITH A STRENGTH WHICH STAGGERS THE MIND--



--AND A SAVAGERY FAR BEYOND THAT OF ANY WILD ANIMAL!



SIX MINUTES LATER...

THAT WASN'T A BAD MORNING'S WORKOUT! WITH LUCK, I CAN STILL CATCH THE TAIL END OF THE MEETING IN THE MAYOR'S OFFICE!

BLEEP! BLEEP!

SOUNDS LIKE JENNA'S BEEN TRYING TO CONTACT ME

SHE'S SO CAPABLE! I DON'T KNOW HOW I'D EVER SURVIVE WITHOUT HER!

BLEEP! BLEEP!

MOMENTS LATER...

PUMA SITS QUIETLY, DRAINING HIS MIND OF ALL TENSIONS...

HE SLOWS HIS BREATHING, AND BEGINS TO CONCENTRATE. CONCENTRATE!

AND THEN--

THE TRANSFORMATIONS SEEM TO BE GETTING EASIER...THOUGH THEY'RE JUST AS PAINFUL AS EVER!

I'D BETTER DISCUSS THEM WITH MY UNCLE AFTER THE NEXT MONTHLY TRIBAL MEETING!

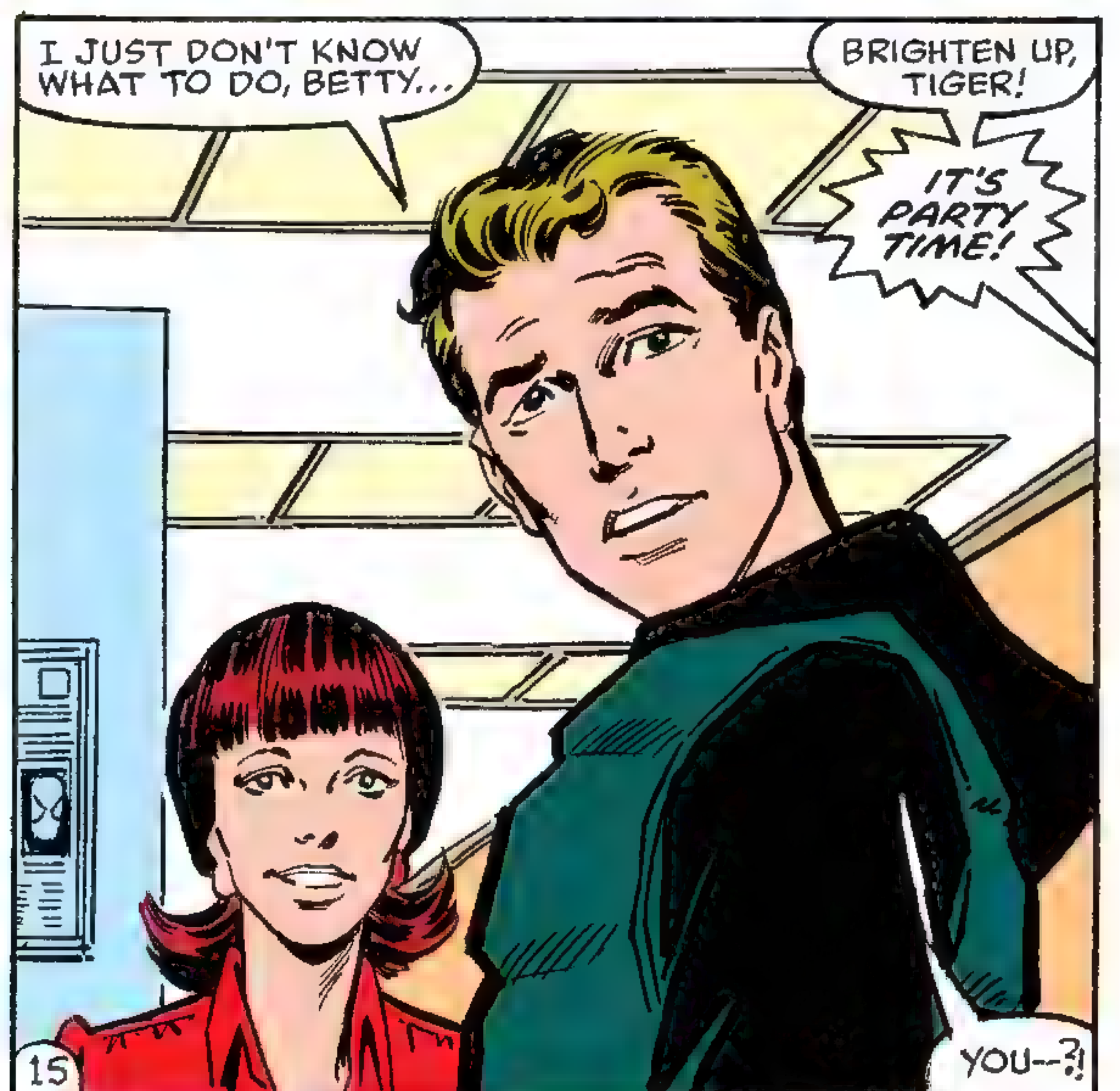
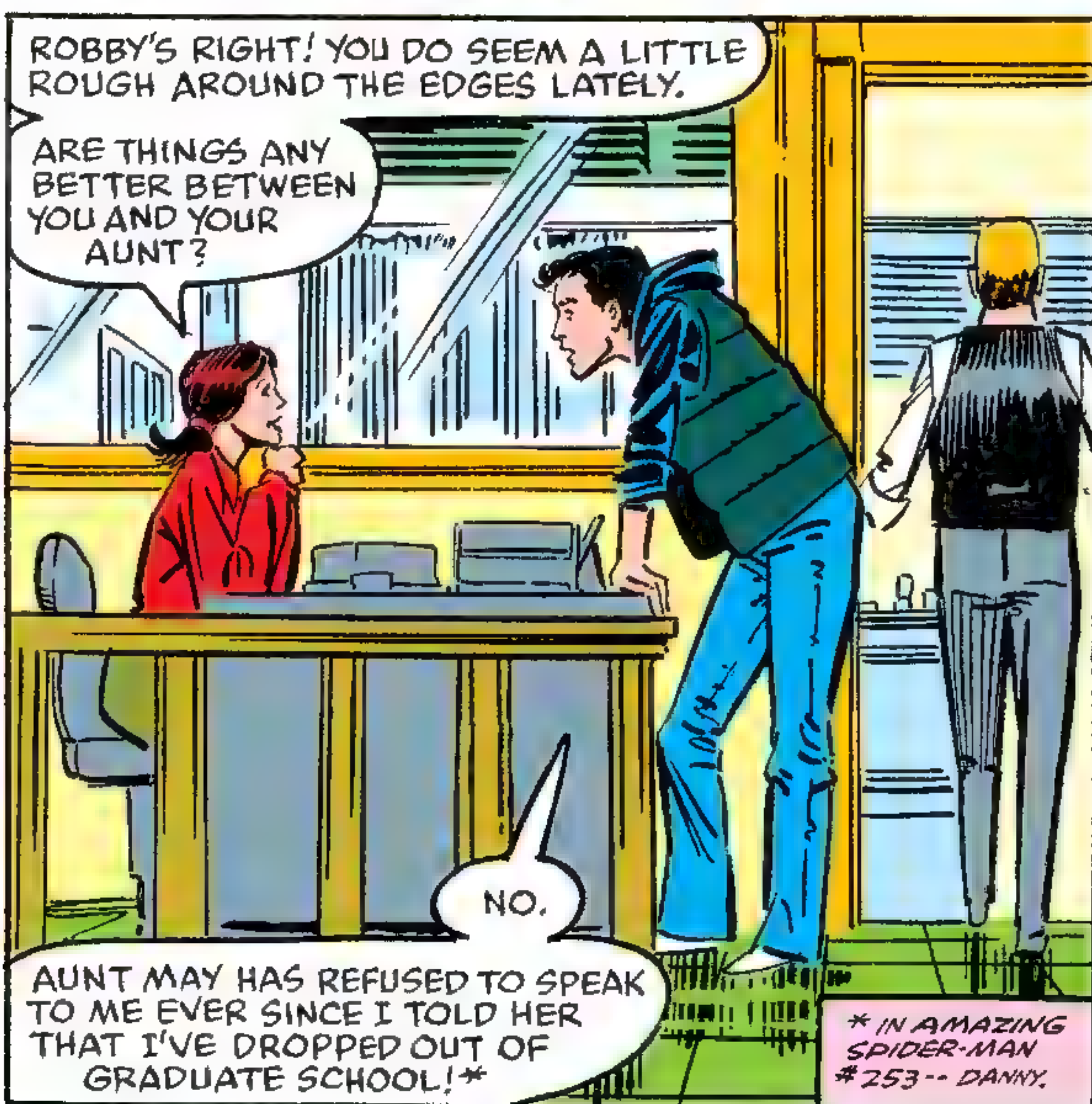
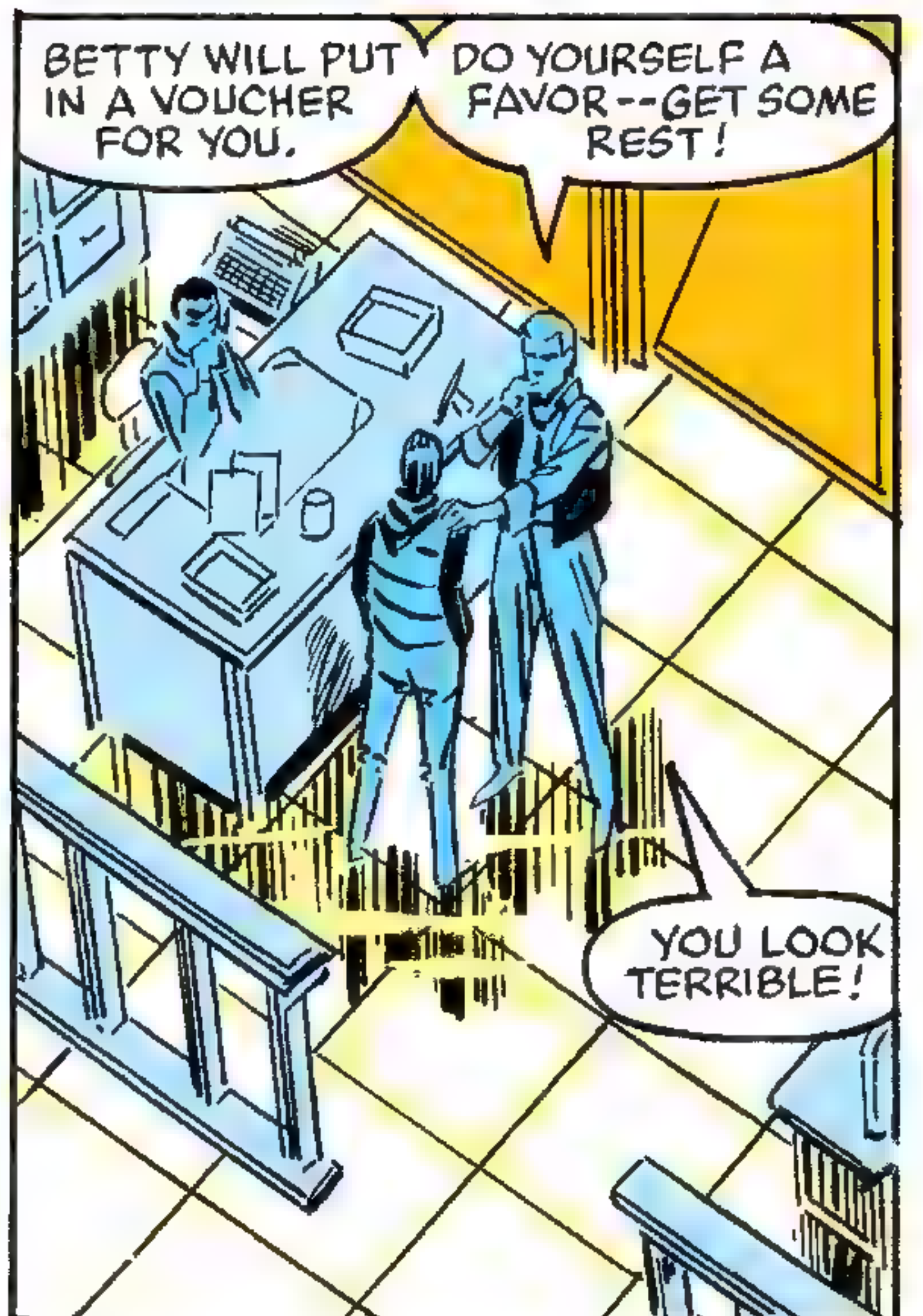
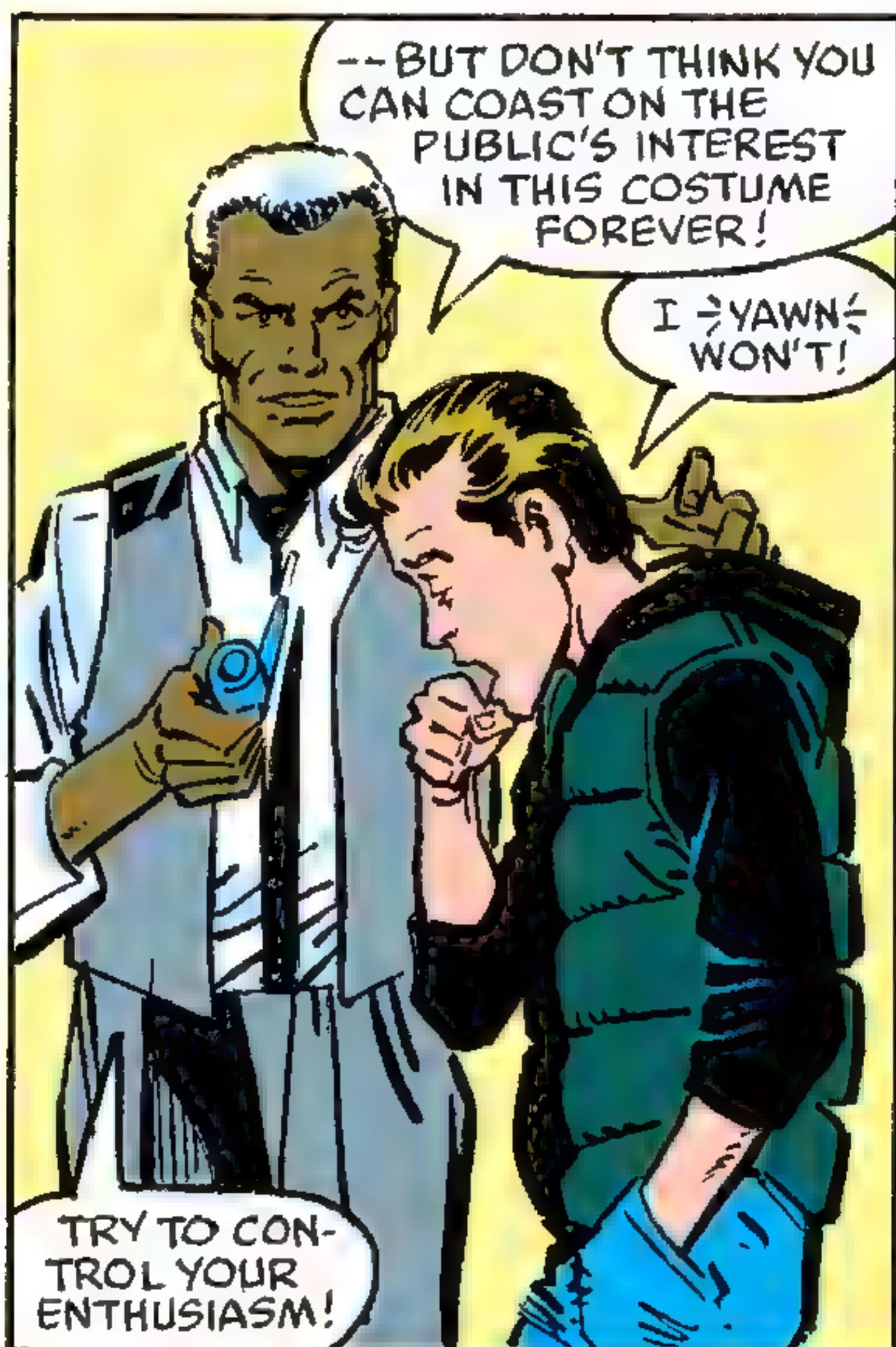
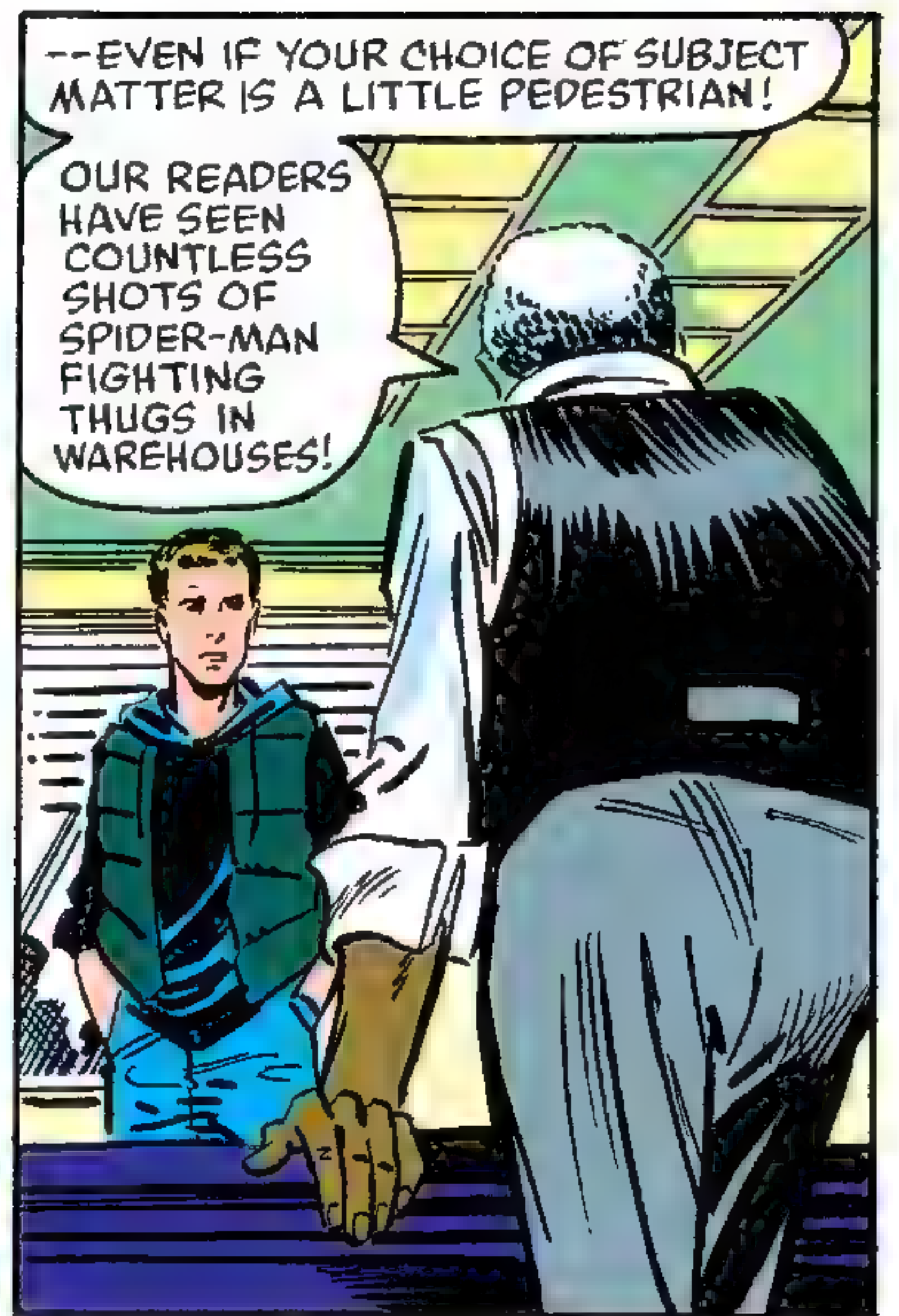
I WISH I COULD CONVINCE THE OLD COOT TO MOVE OFF THE RESERVATION--AND INTO A MODERN CONDOMINIUM IN HEARTSDALE-- BUT HE'S JUST TOO STUBBORN!

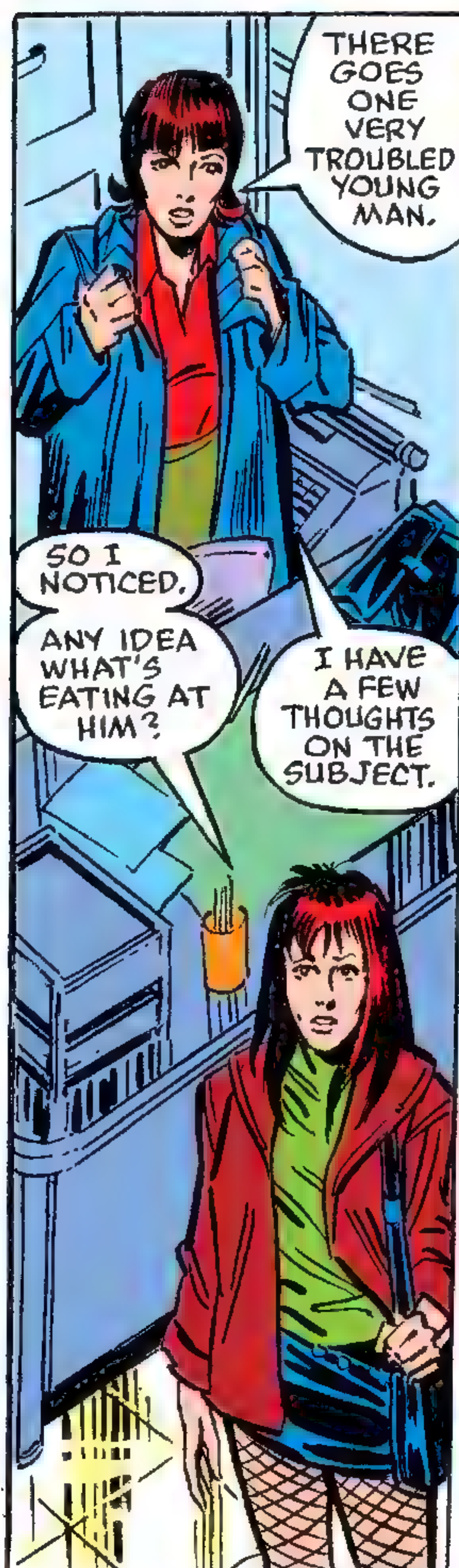
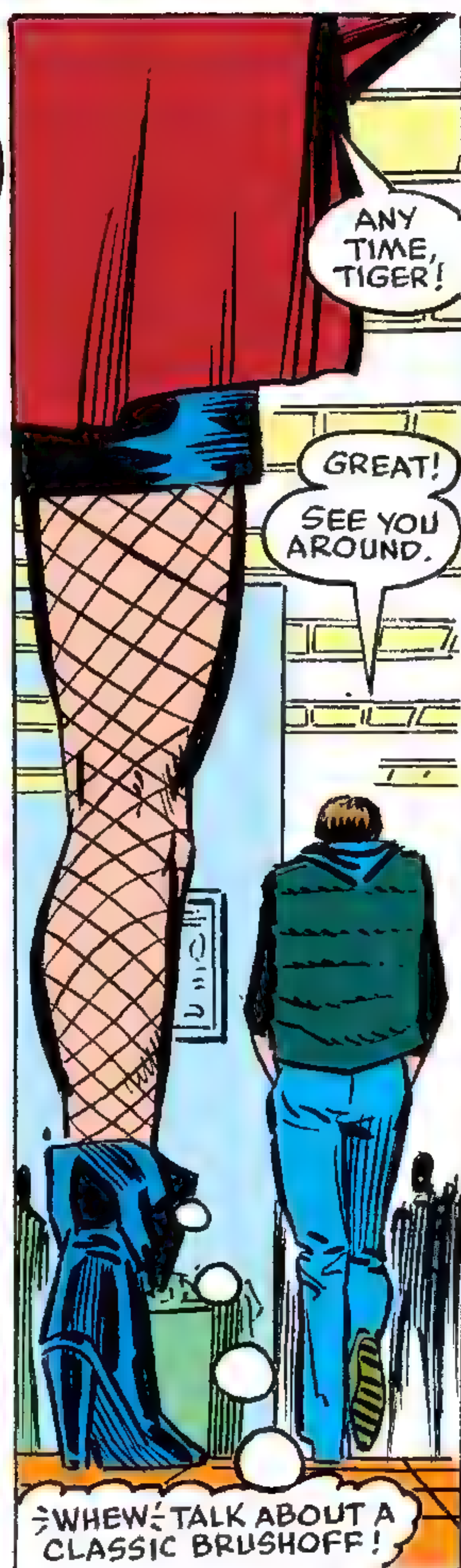
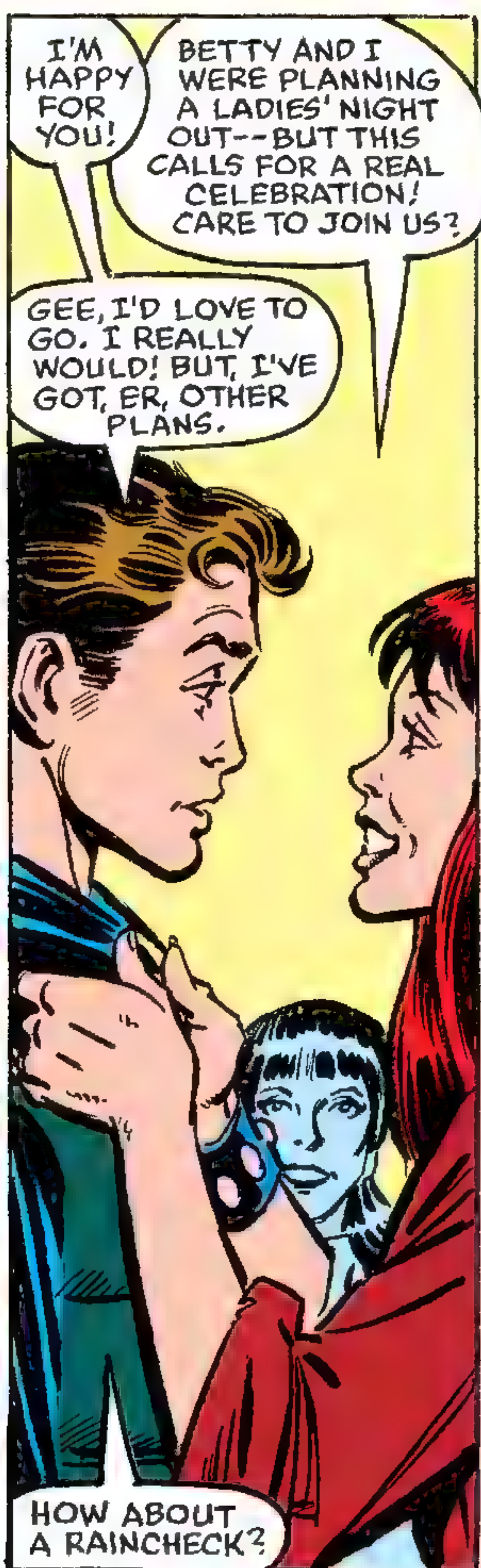
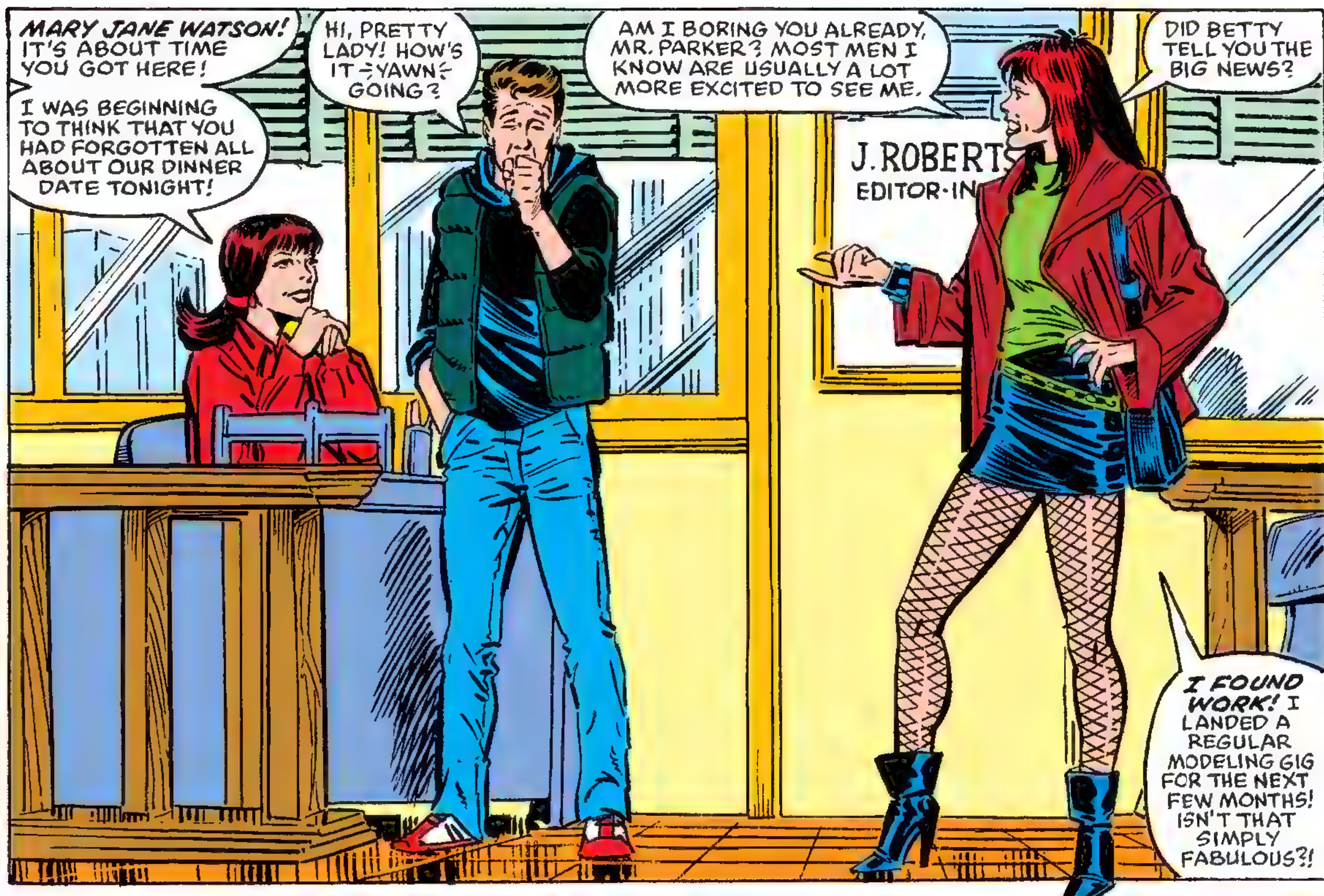
I'LL CHECK IN WITH THE OFFICE--

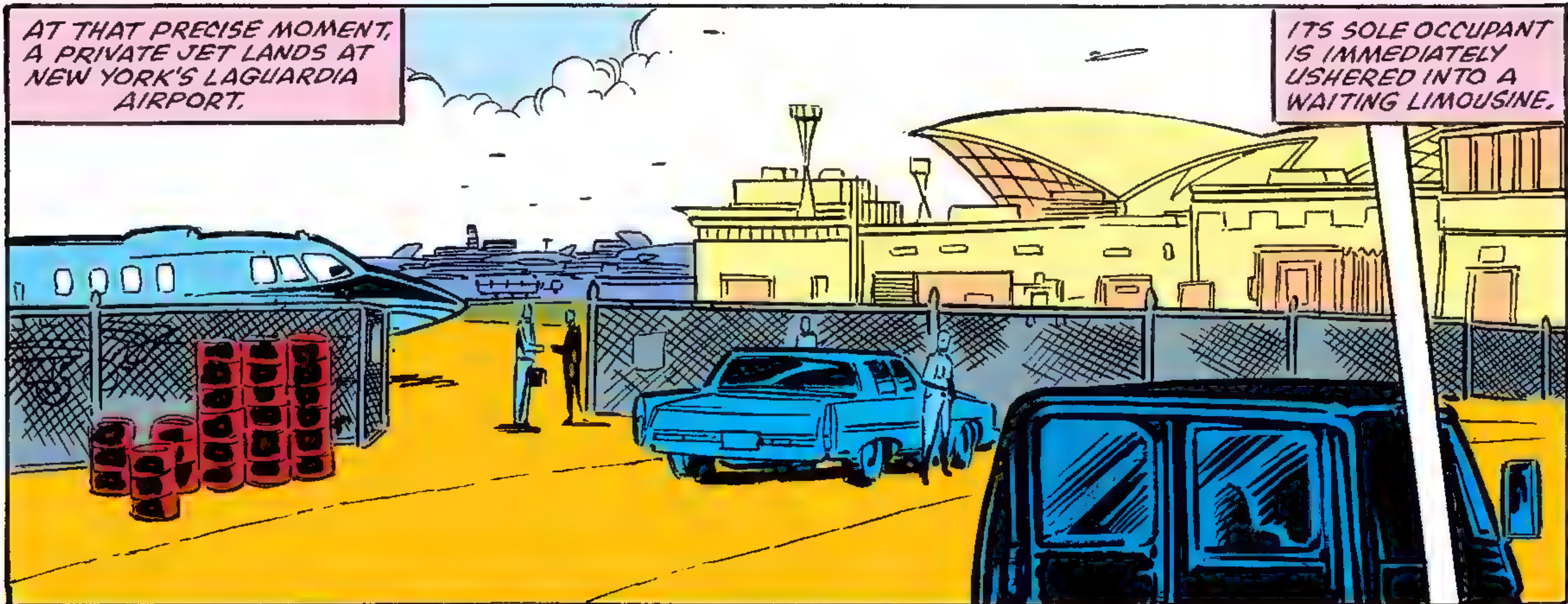
--AFTER I CHANGE INTO SOMETHING MORE CIVILIZED!

THERE! THAT'S BETTER!

I HOPE JENNA HAS EXCITING NEWS FOR ME! THINGS HAVE BEEN A BIT DULL AROUND HERE!







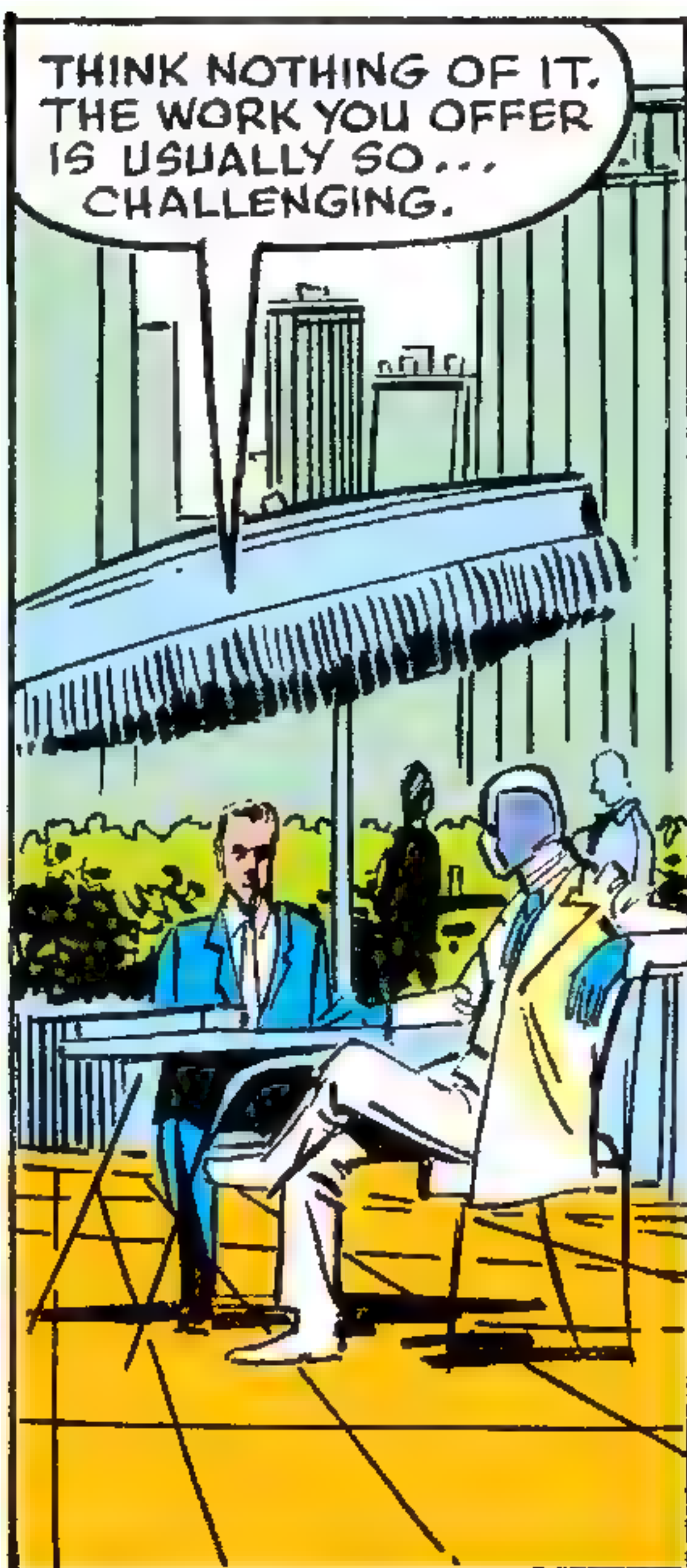
AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT,
A PRIVATE JET LANDS AT
NEW YORK'S LAGUARDIA
AIRPORT.

ITS SOLE OCCUPANT
IS IMMEDIATELY
USHERED INTO A
WAITING LIMOUSINE.

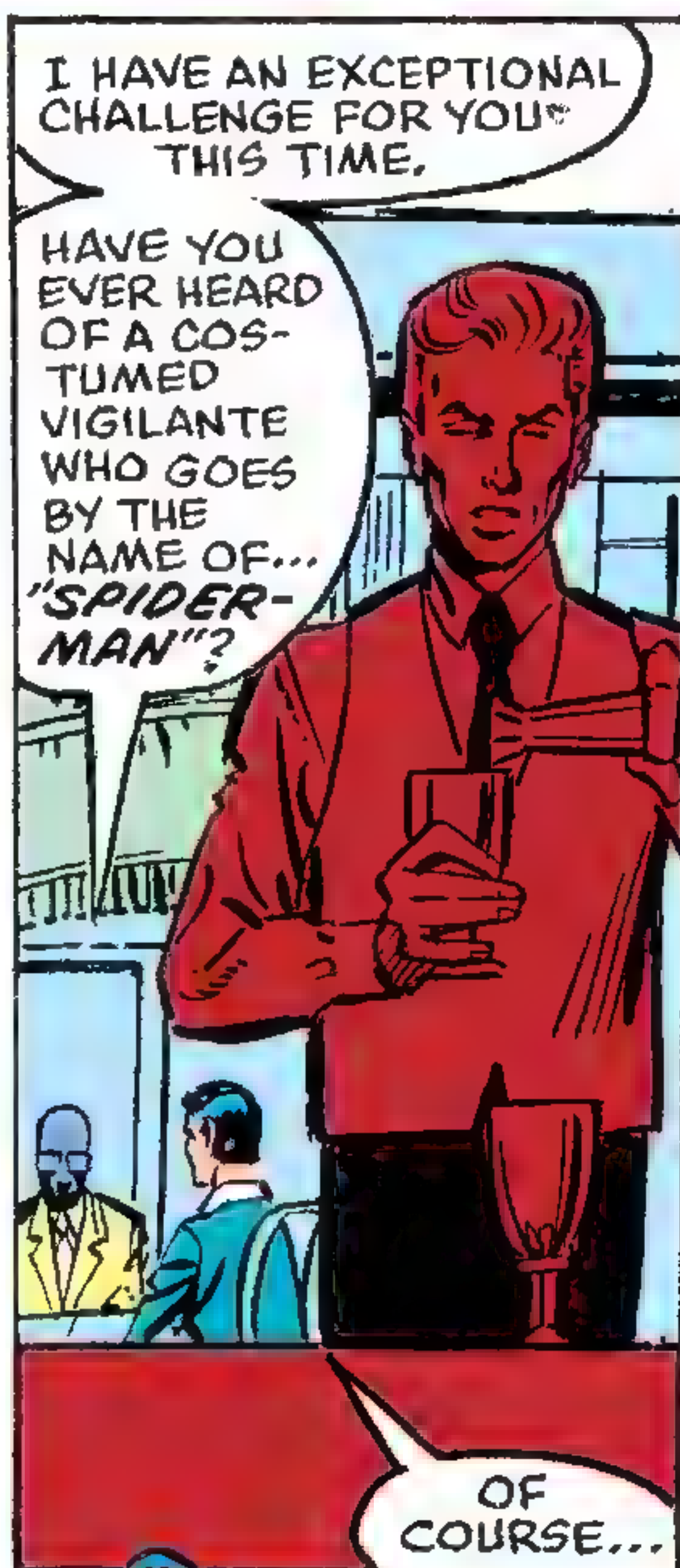


SOON...

I APPRECIATE
THE PROMPT-
NESS WITH WHICH
YOU HAVE RE-
SPONDED TO
MY CALL.



THINK NOTHING OF IT.
THE WORK YOU OFFER
IS USUALLY SO...
CHALLENGING.



I HAVE AN EXCEPTIONAL
CHALLENGE FOR YOU*
THIS TIME.

HAVE YOU
EVER HEARD
OF A COS-
TUMED
VIGILANTE
WHO GOES
BY THE
NAME OF...
"SPIDER-
MAN"?

OF
COURSE...



HE'S ONE OF
THOSE SO-CALLED "SUPER-
HEROES." THIS CITY CERTAINLY
SEEMS TO HAVE AN
ABUNDANCE OF THEM.

WE HAVE A FEW BASED IN
MY PART OF THE COUNTRY
AS WELL...THOUGH THEY
AREN'T AS WELL-
PUBLICIZED.

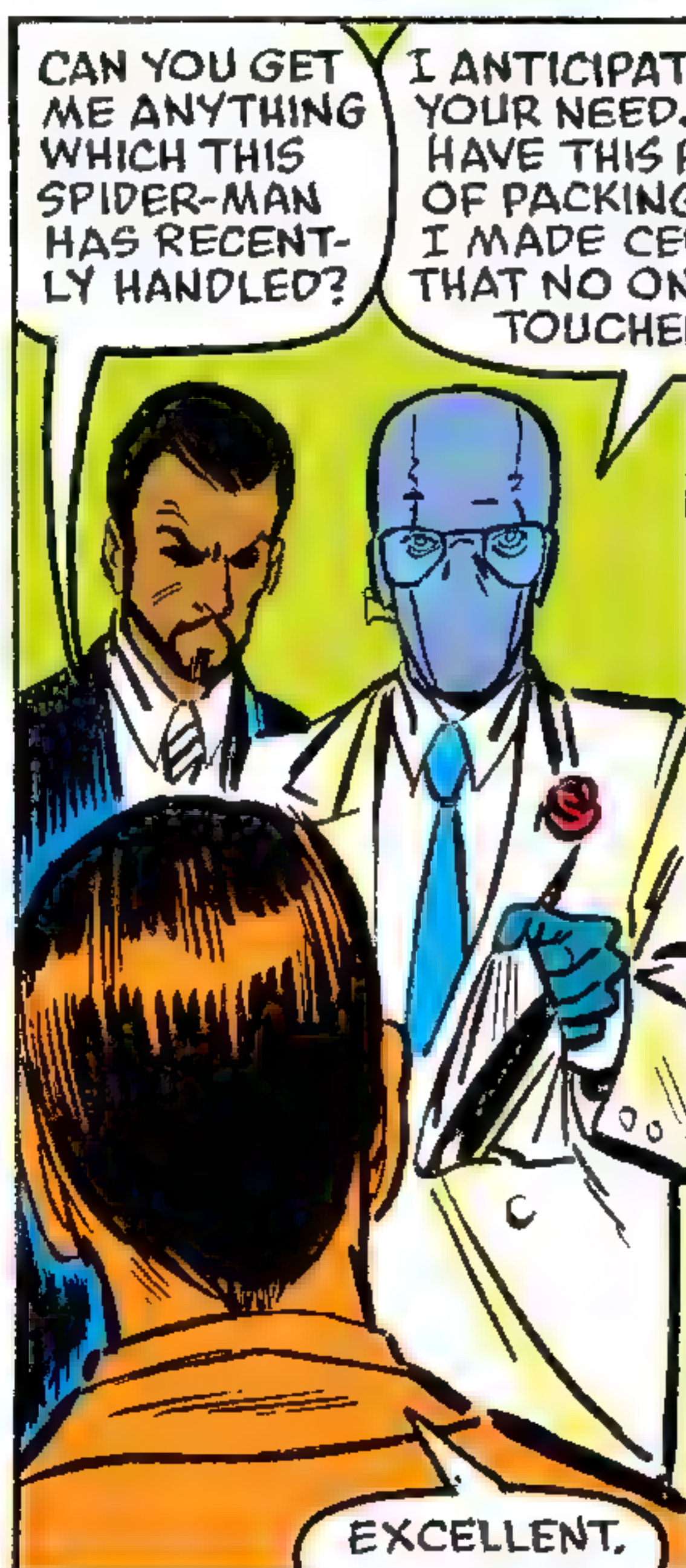


WILL YOU
ACCEPT THIS
CHALLENGE?

YES.

GOOD.
WHEN
SHALL
YOU
BEGIN?

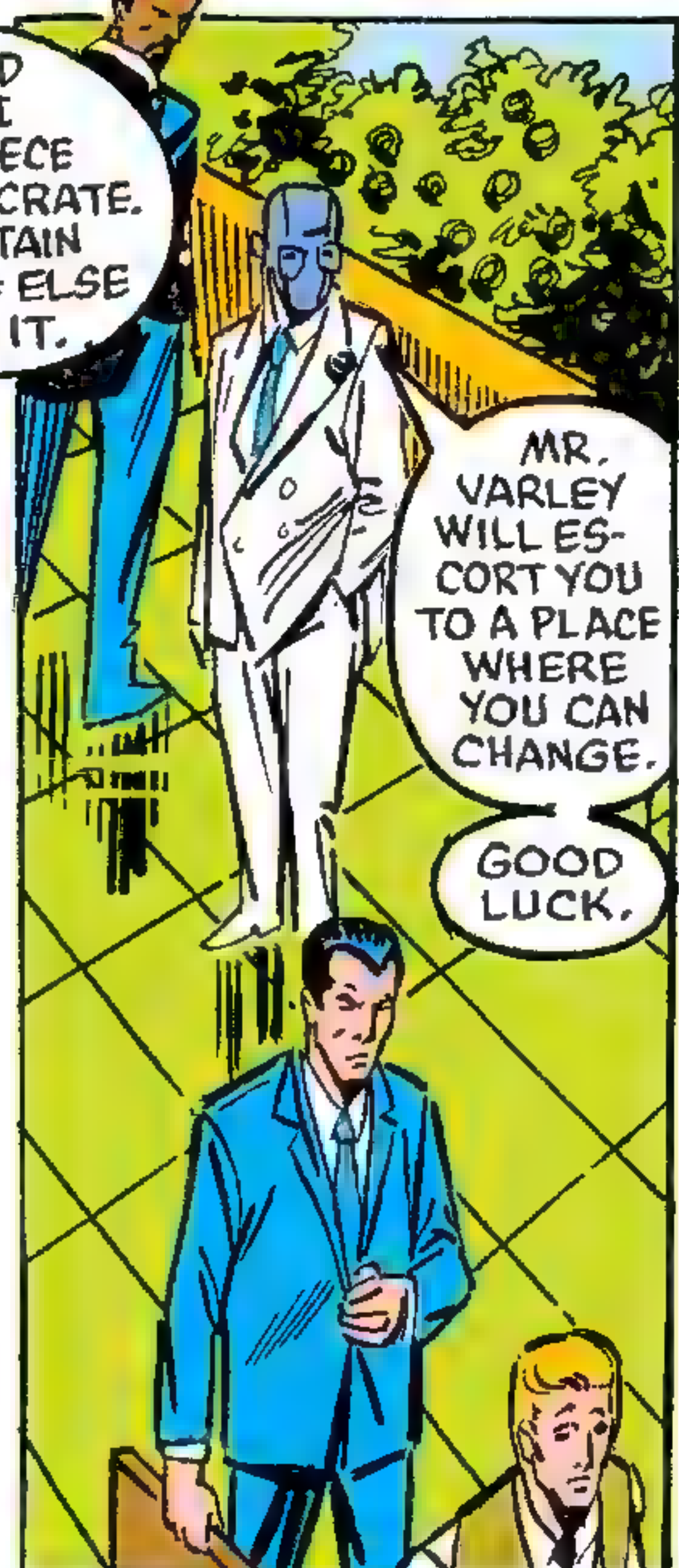
IMME-
DIATE-
LY!



CAN YOU GET
ME ANYTHING
WHICH THIS
SPIDER-MAN
HAS RECENT-
LY HANDLED?

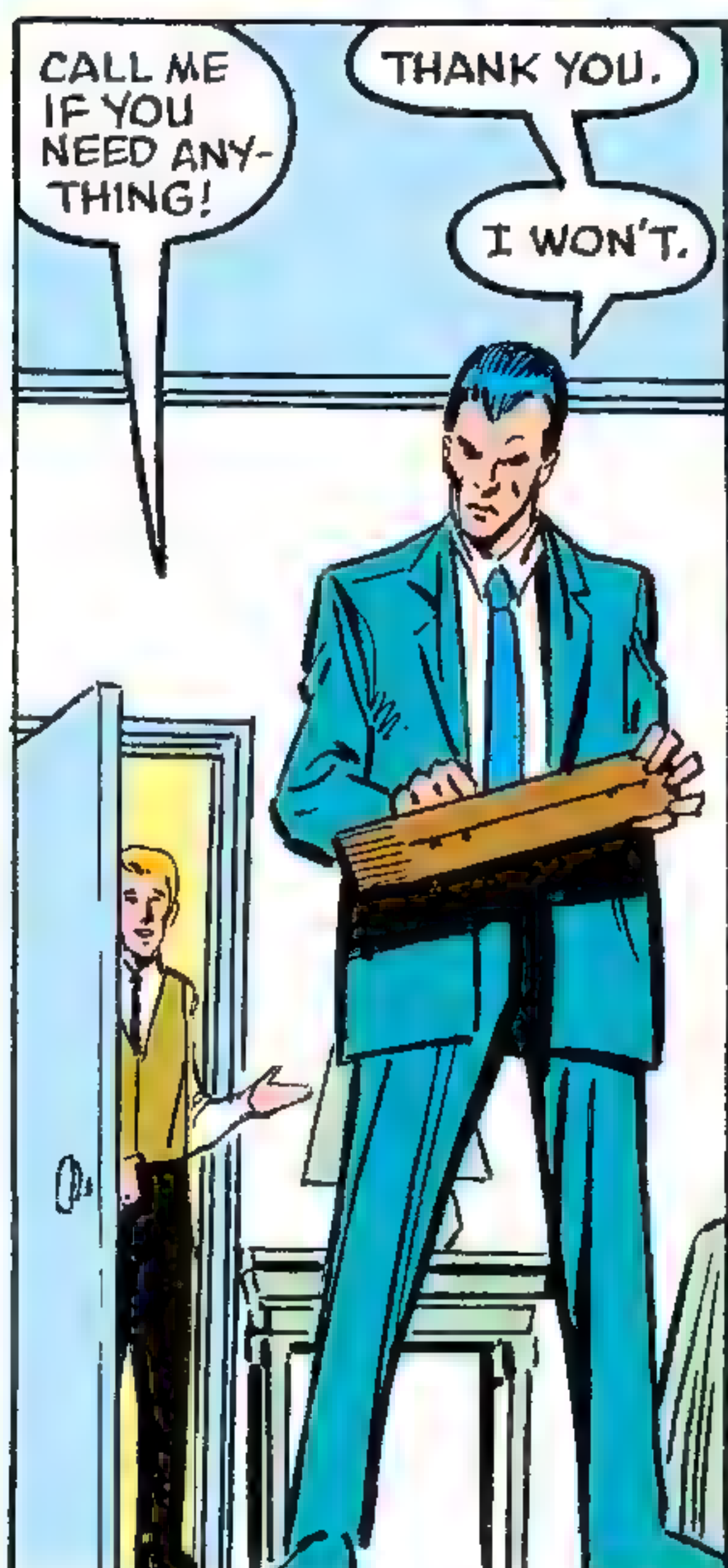
I ANTICIPATED
YOUR NEED. I
HAVE THIS PIECE
OF PACKING CRATE.
I MADE CERTAIN
THAT NO ONE ELSE
TOUCHED IT.

EXCELLENT.



MR.
VARLEY
WILL ES-
CORT YOU
TO A PLACE
WHERE
YOU CAN
CHANGE.

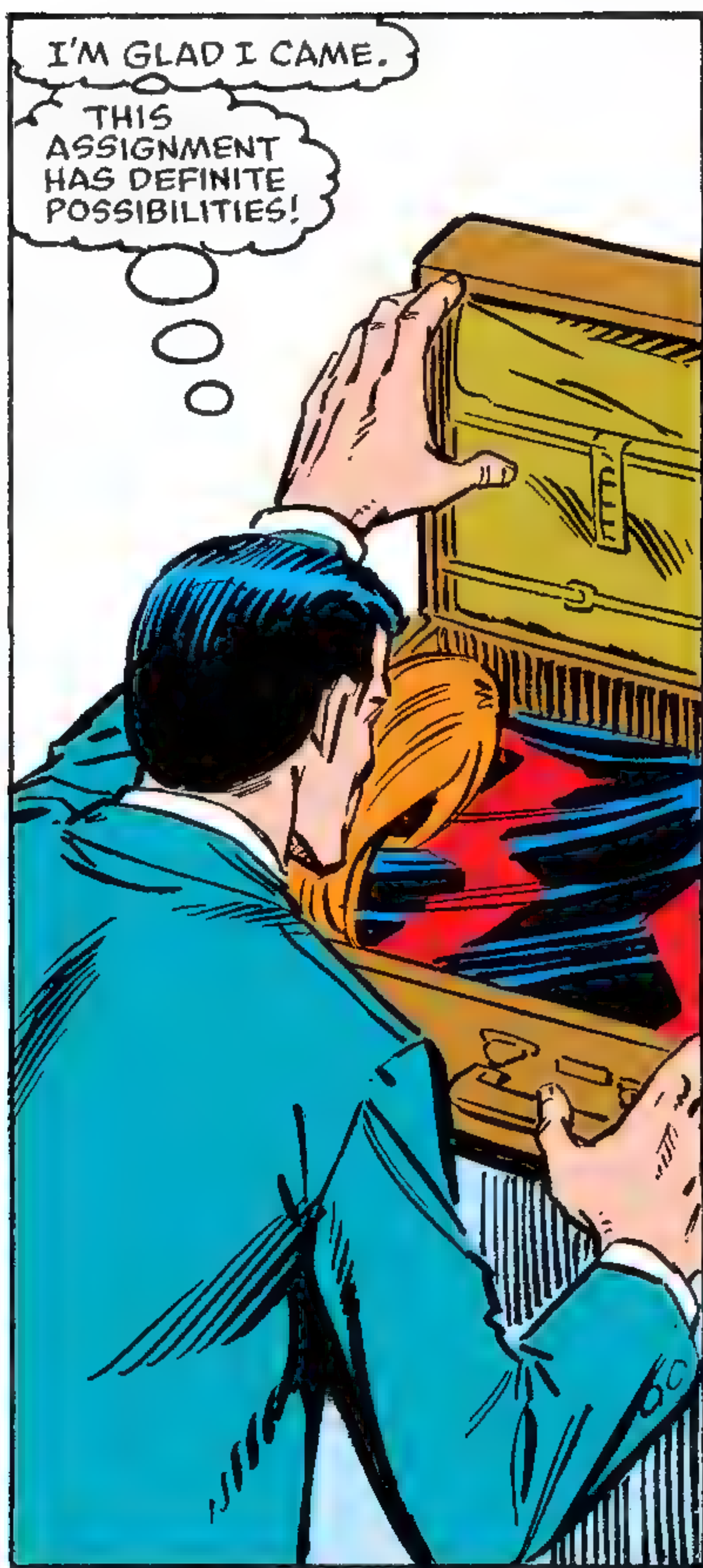
GOOD
LUCK.



CALL ME
IF YOU
NEED ANY-
THING!

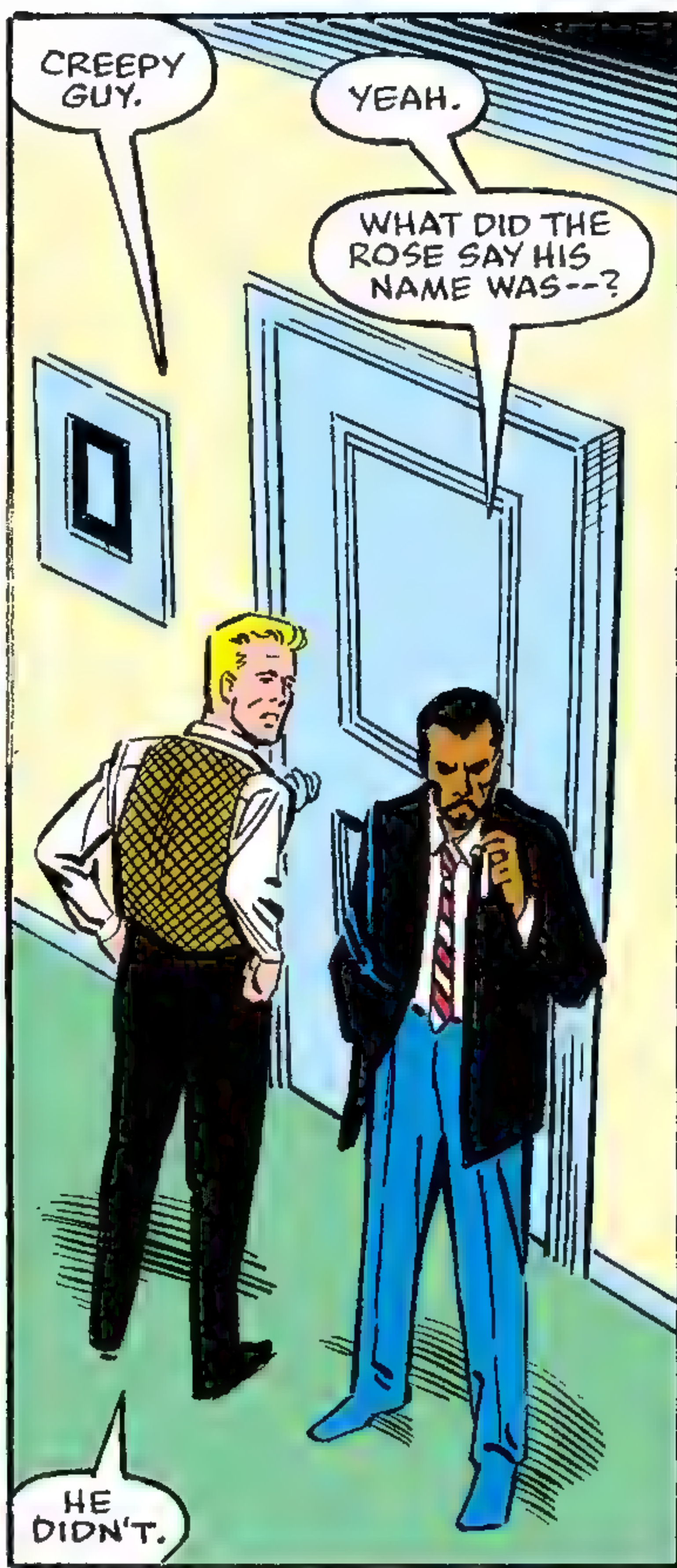
THANK YOU.

I WON'T.



I'M GLAD I CAME.

THIS
ASSIGNMENT
HAS DEFINITE
POSSIBILITIES!



CREEPY
GUY.

YEAH.

WHAT DID THE
ROSE SAY HIS
NAME WAS--?

HE
DIDN'T.



HE'S BEEN IN THERE FOR TWENTY
MINUTES! HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE
A GUY TO CHANGE HIS CLOTHES?
WHAT'S HE DOING?

BEATS
ME.

HELLO--? IS
EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT?

NOK!
NOK!



I DON'T LIKE
THIS! NOT
ONE BIT!

WHY AIN'T HE
ANSWERING?

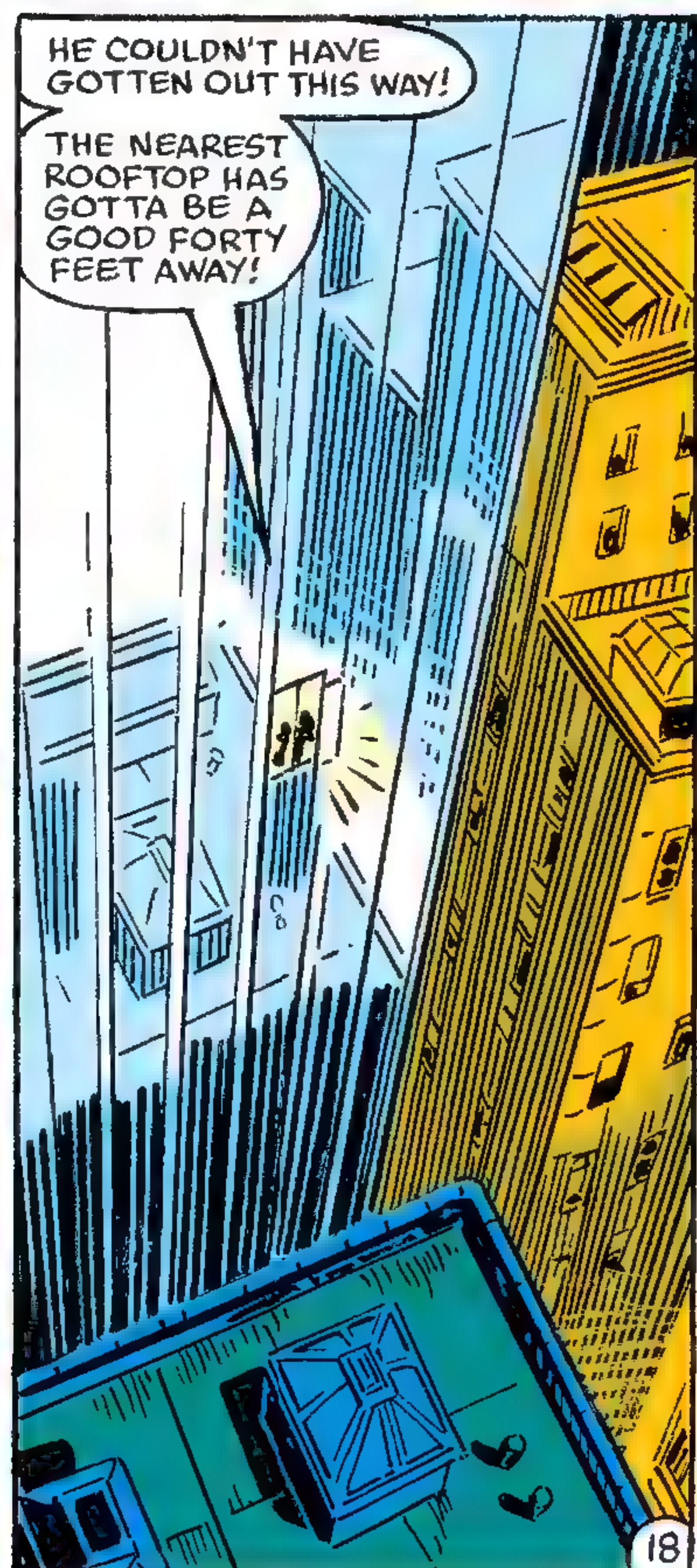
VARLEY, SOME-
THING TELLS ME
WE BETTER
OPEN THAT
DOOR...



HEY!
HE'S
GONE--!

I DON'T GET IT!
HE LEFT HIS
CLOTHES
BEHIND!

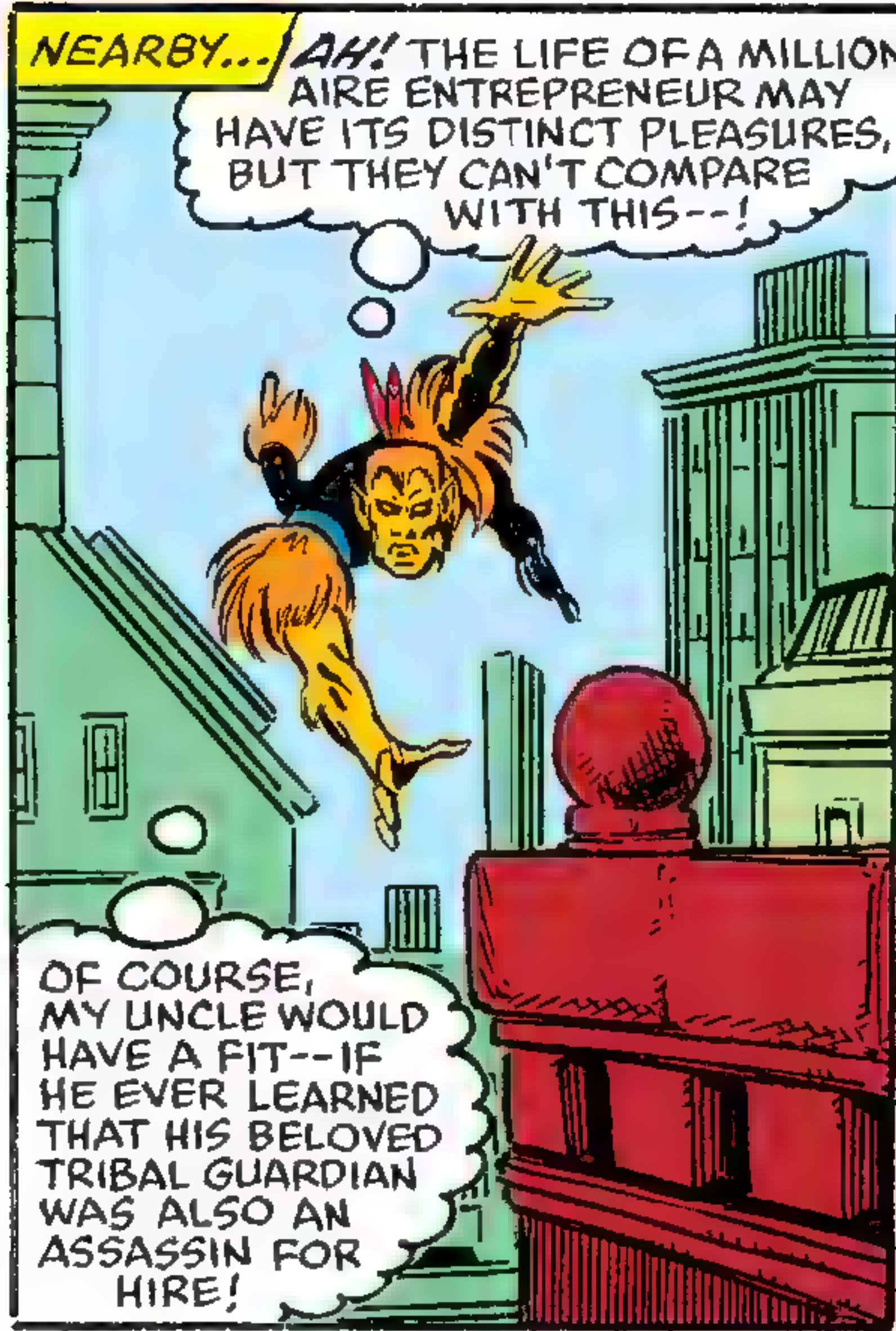
LOOK!
THE
WINDOW--!



HE COULDN'T HAVE
GOTTEN OUT THIS WAY!

THE NEAREST
ROOFTOP HAS
GOTTA BE A
GOOD FORTY
FEET AWAY!

NEARBY... **AH!** THE LIFE OF A MILLION-AIRE ENTREPRENEUR MAY HAVE ITS DISTINCT PLEASURES, BUT THEY CAN'T COMPARE WITH THIS--!



OF COURSE, MY UNCLE WOULD HAVE A FIT--IF HE EVER LEARNED THAT HIS BELOVED TRIBAL GUARDIAN WAS ALSO AN ASSASSIN FOR HIRE!

THAT'S HIS PROBLEM!

HE'S GOT NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT AS LONG AS I CONTINUE TO FULFILL MY OBLIGATIONS TO THE TRIBE!



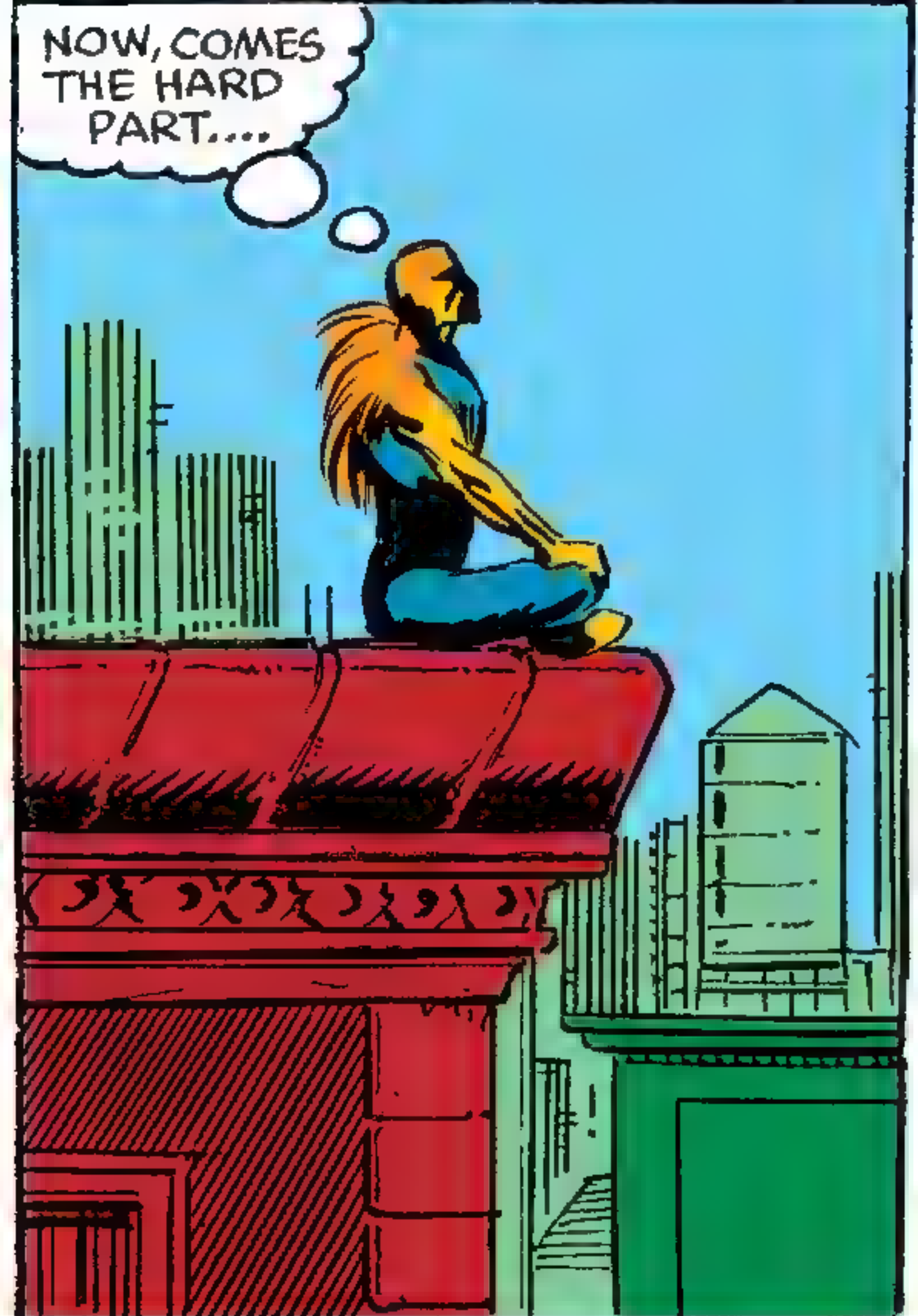
THE WAY I CHOOSE TO ENTERTAIN MYSELF IS NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT MY OWN!

I JUST HOPE SPIDER-MAN LIVES UP TO HIS REP! IT'S BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I BATTLED ANYONE WORTH THE EFFORT.

HMM! THE SPOOR IS WEAK...BUT I THINK I'VE IDENTIFIED HIS SCENT!



NOW, COMES THE HARD PART....



I MUST BLOCK OUT ALL PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISTRACTIONS!



MUST CHANNEL EVERYTHING...ALL CONSCIOUSNESS...THE VERY ESSENCE OF MY BEING...



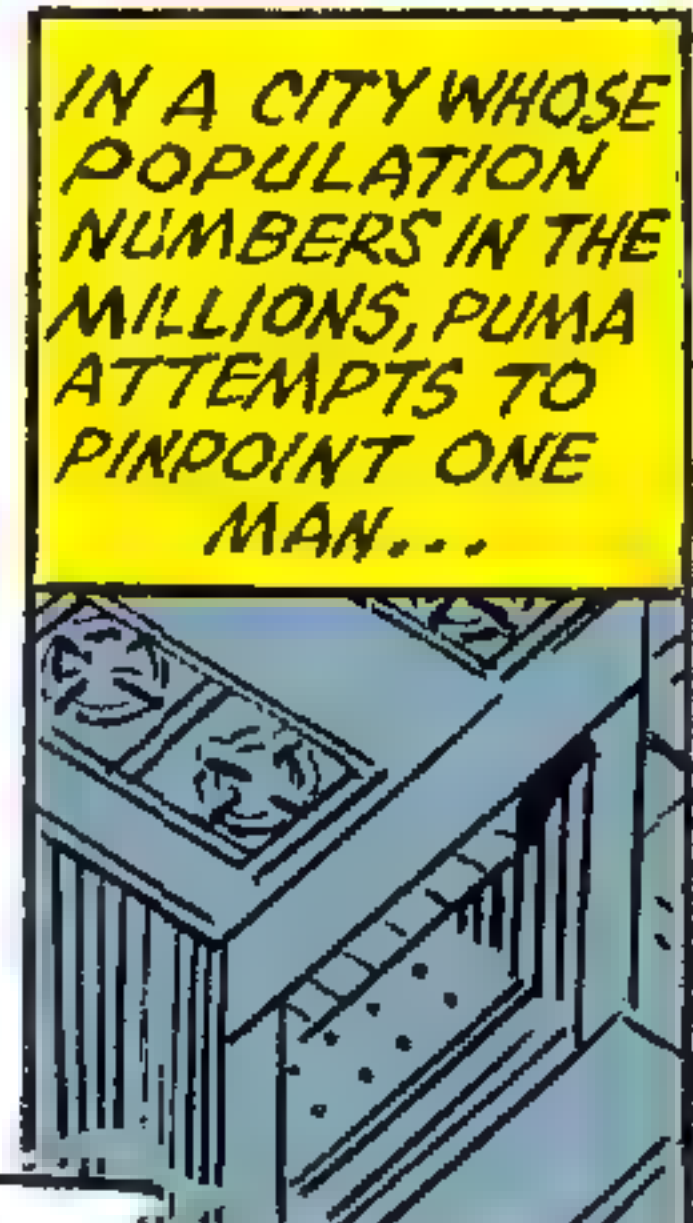
...INTO A SINGLE, HEIGHTENED SENSE!



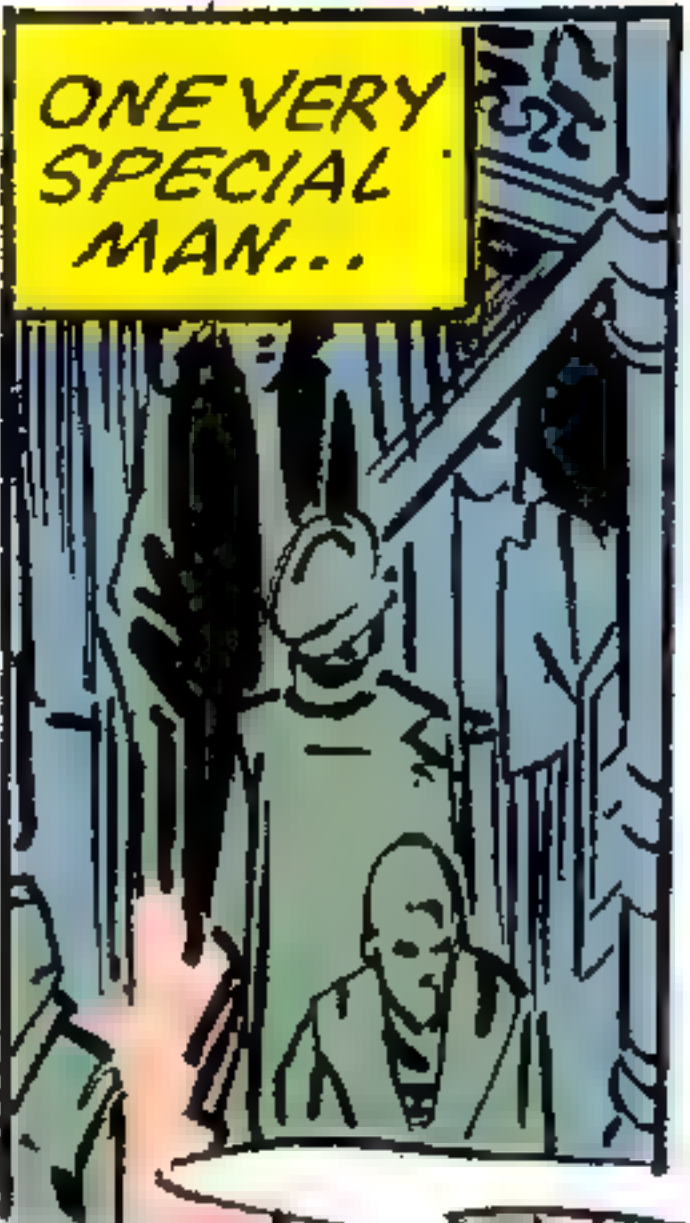
IT IS SAID THAT EVERY LIVING THING HAS ITS OWN, UNIQUE SCENT...



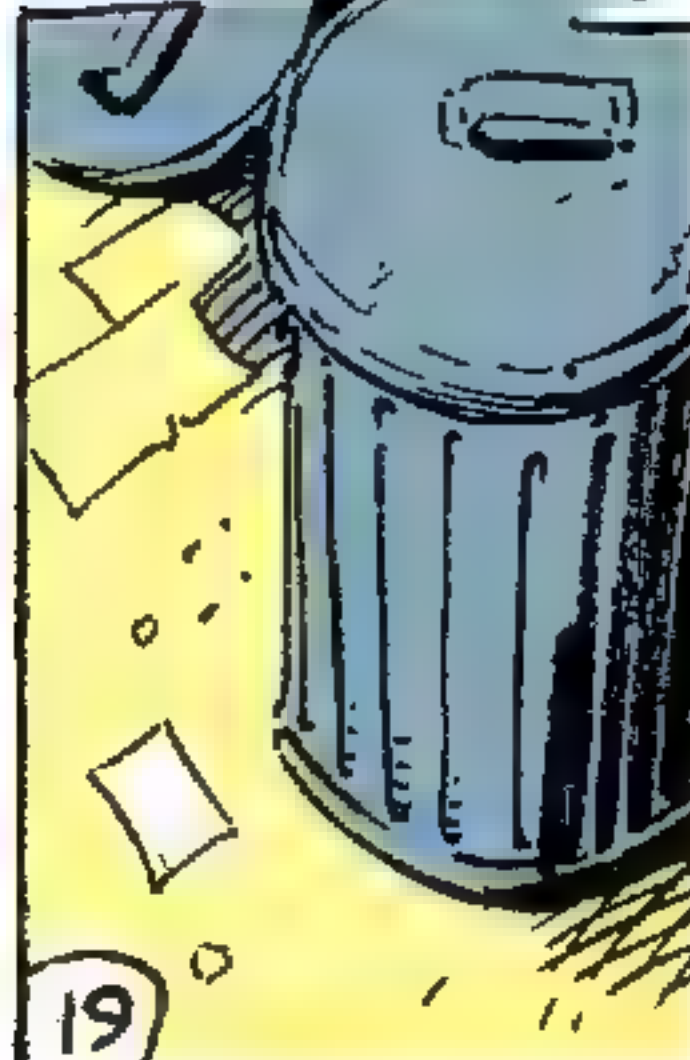
IN A CITY WHOSE POPULATION NUMBERS IN THE MILLIONS, PUMA ATTEMPTS TO PINPOINT ONE MAN...



ONE VERY SPECIAL MAN...



FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR HE SITS RIGID AS STONE...



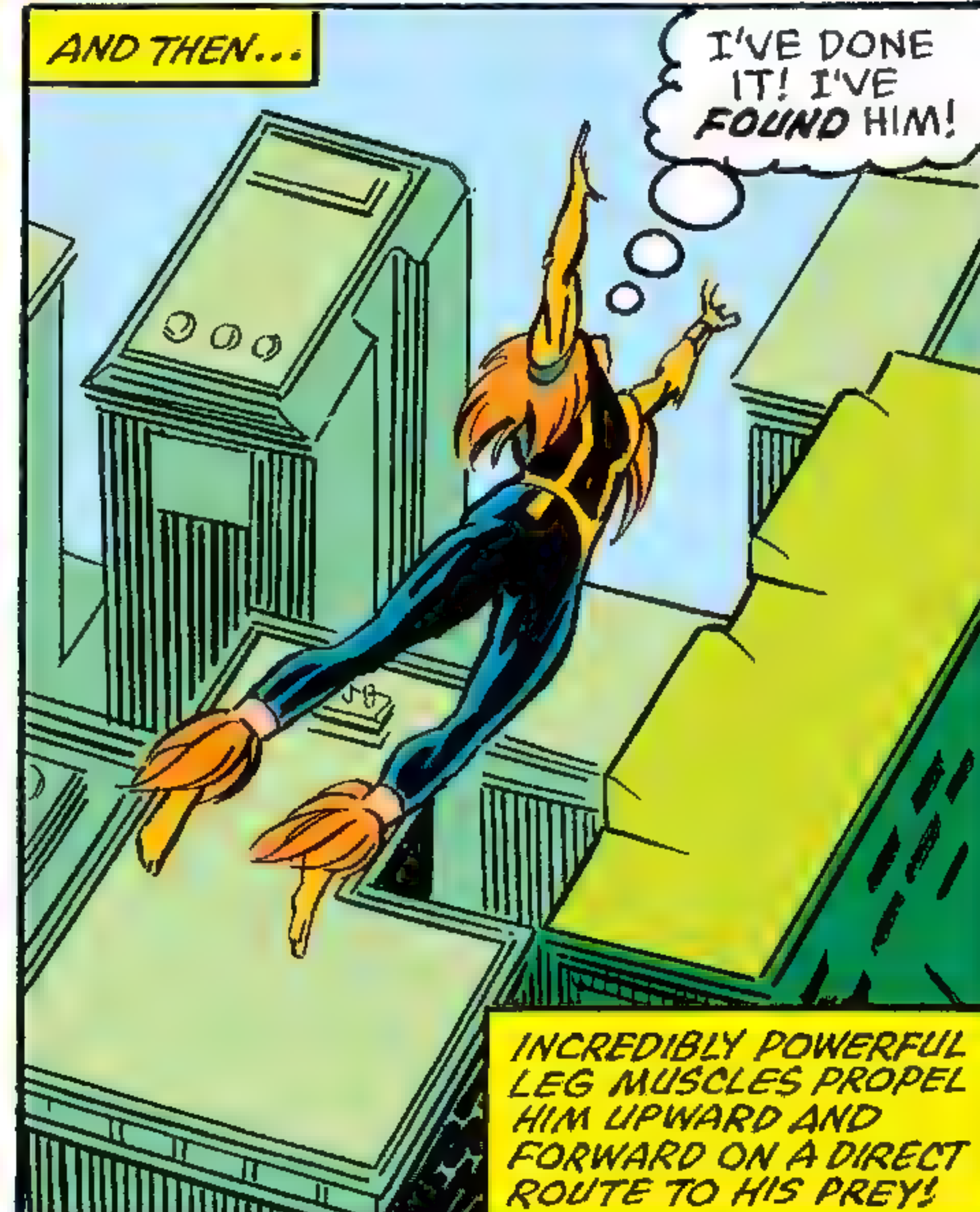
SORTING...

SEARCHING...

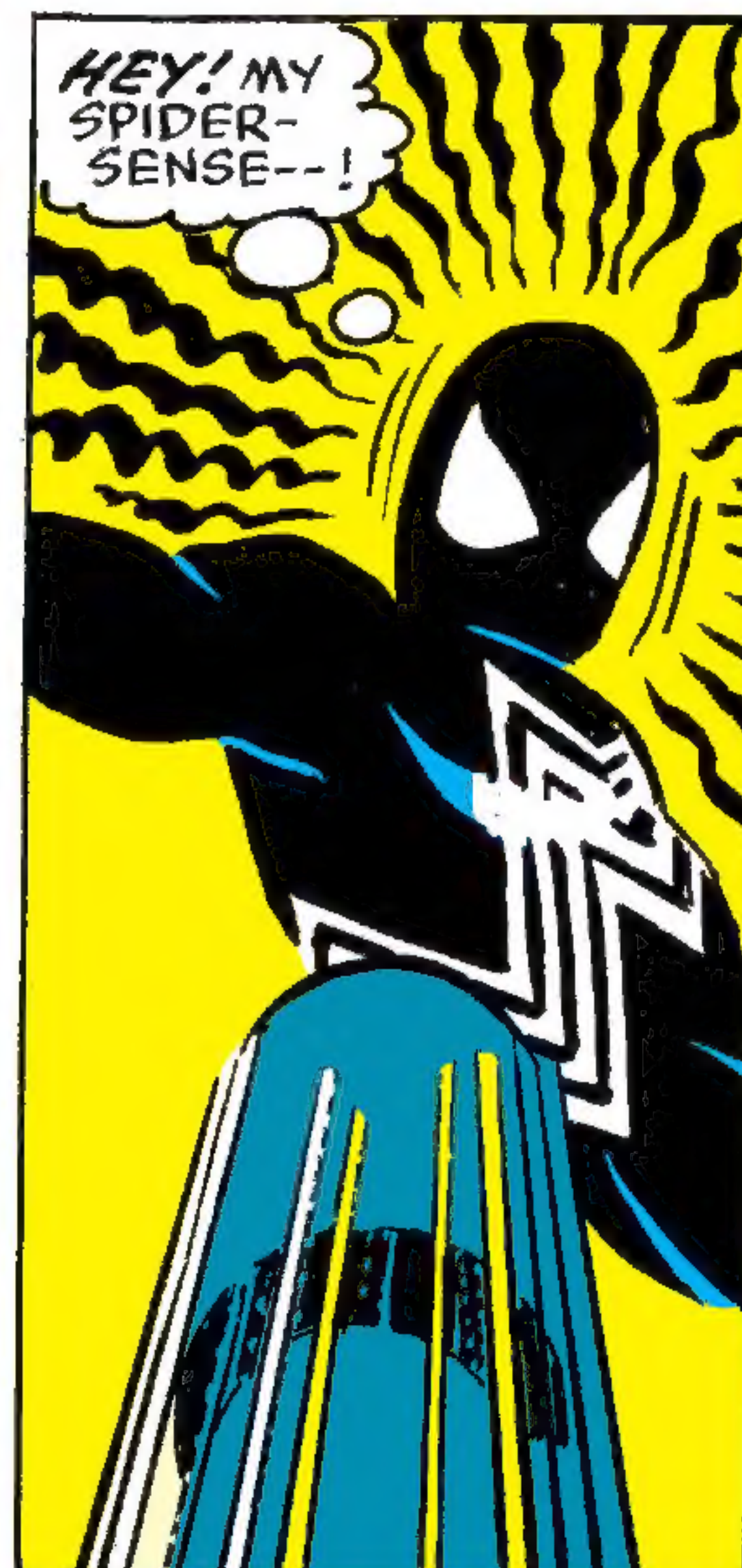
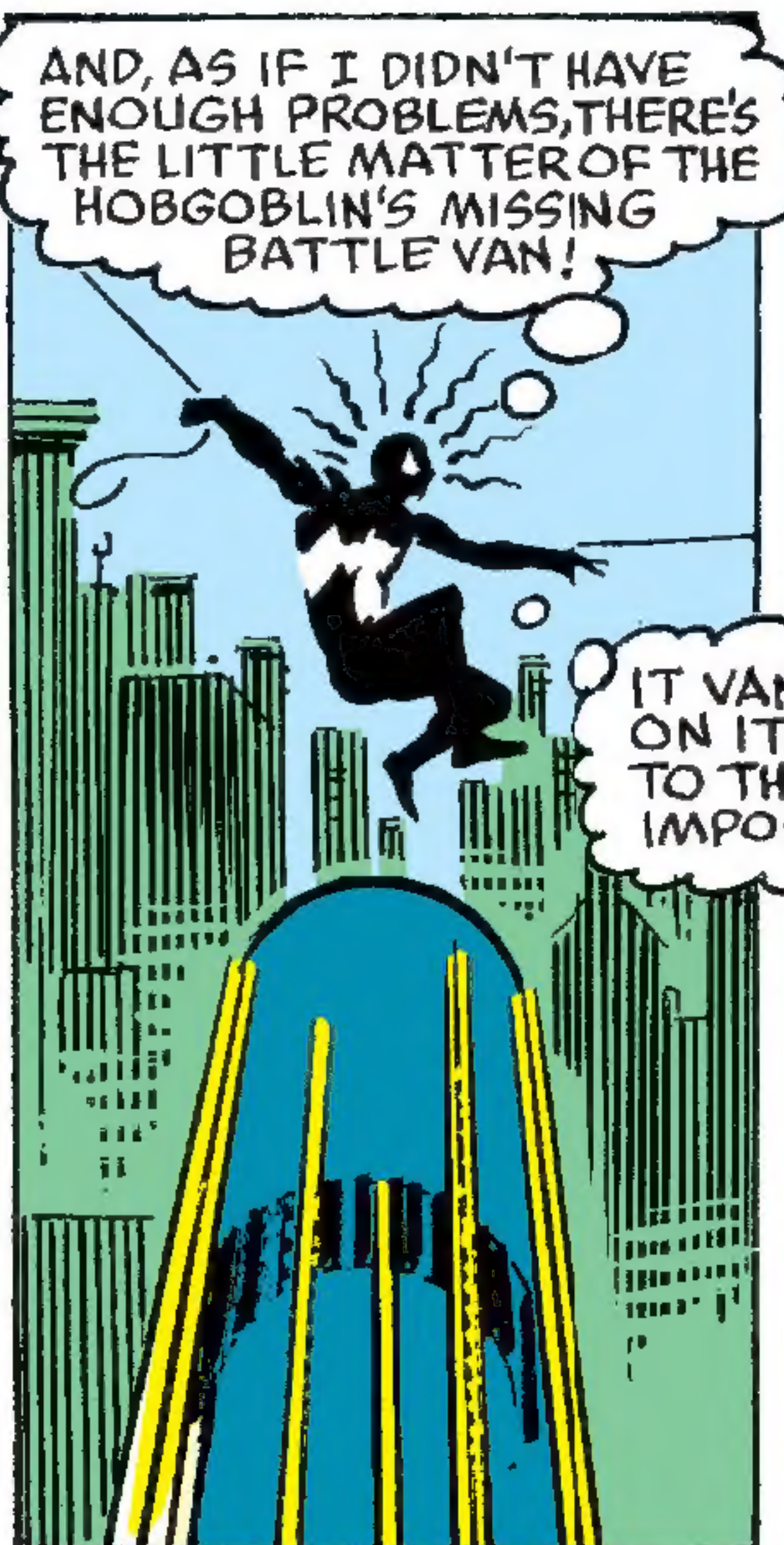
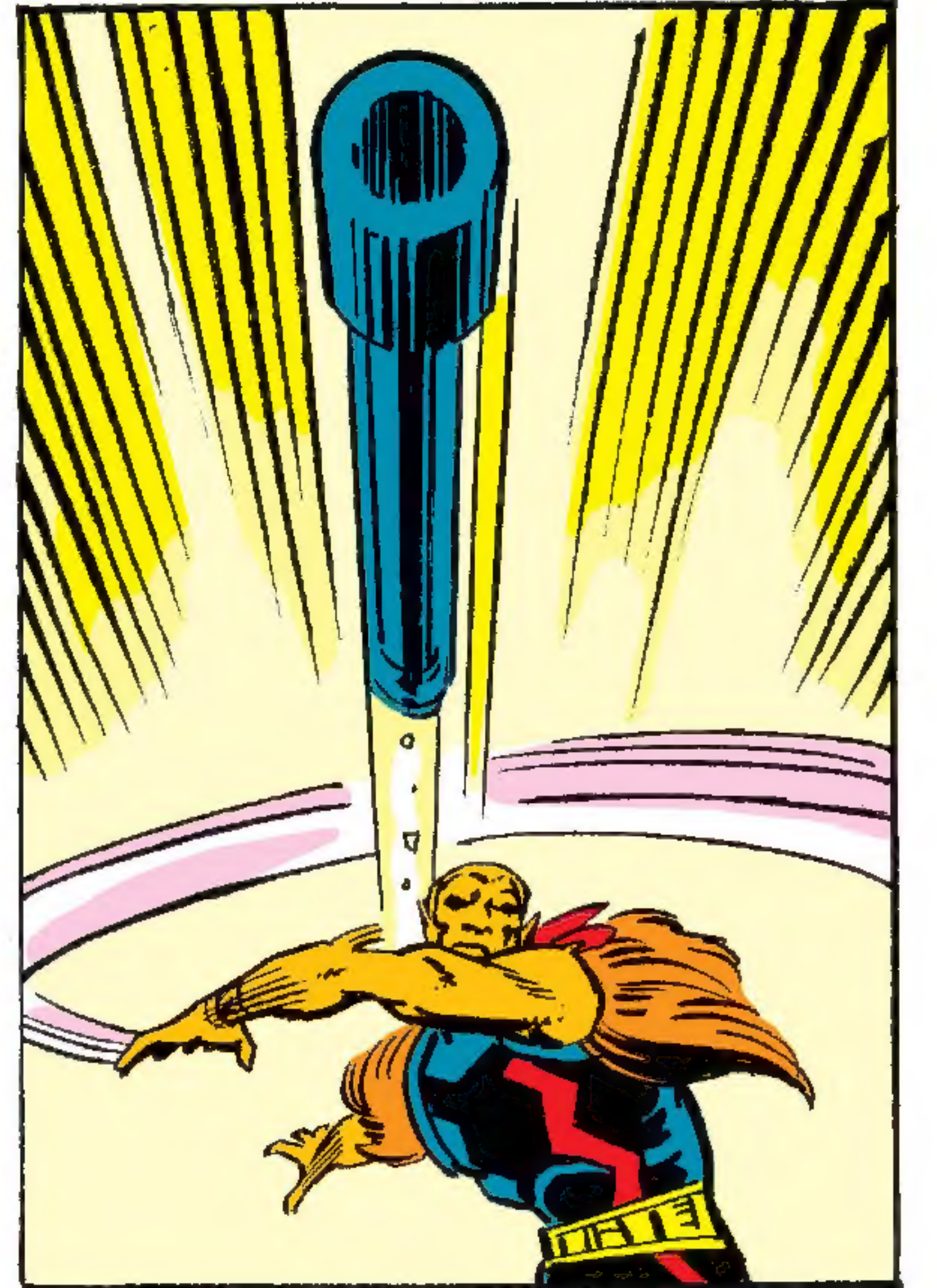
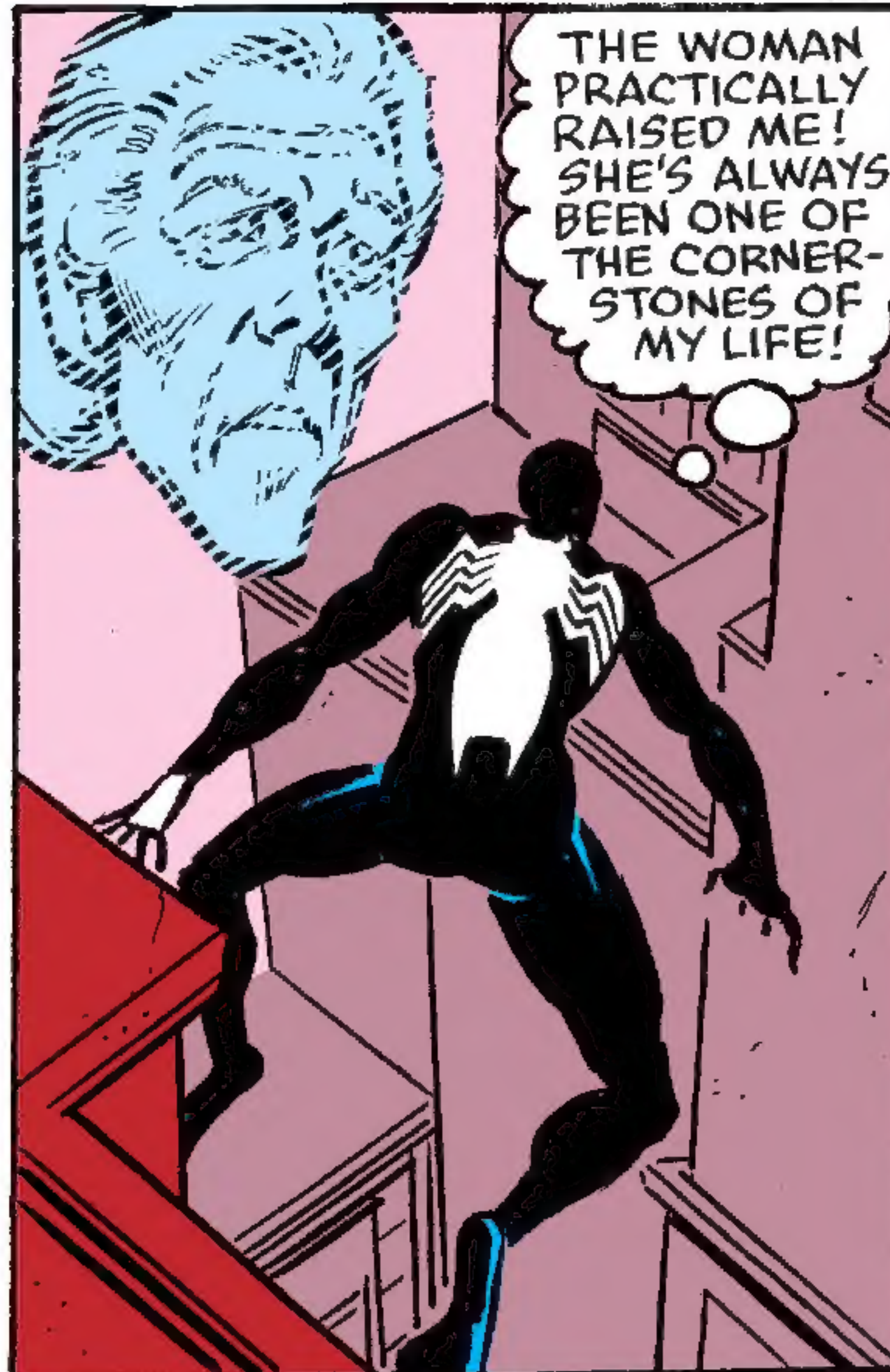


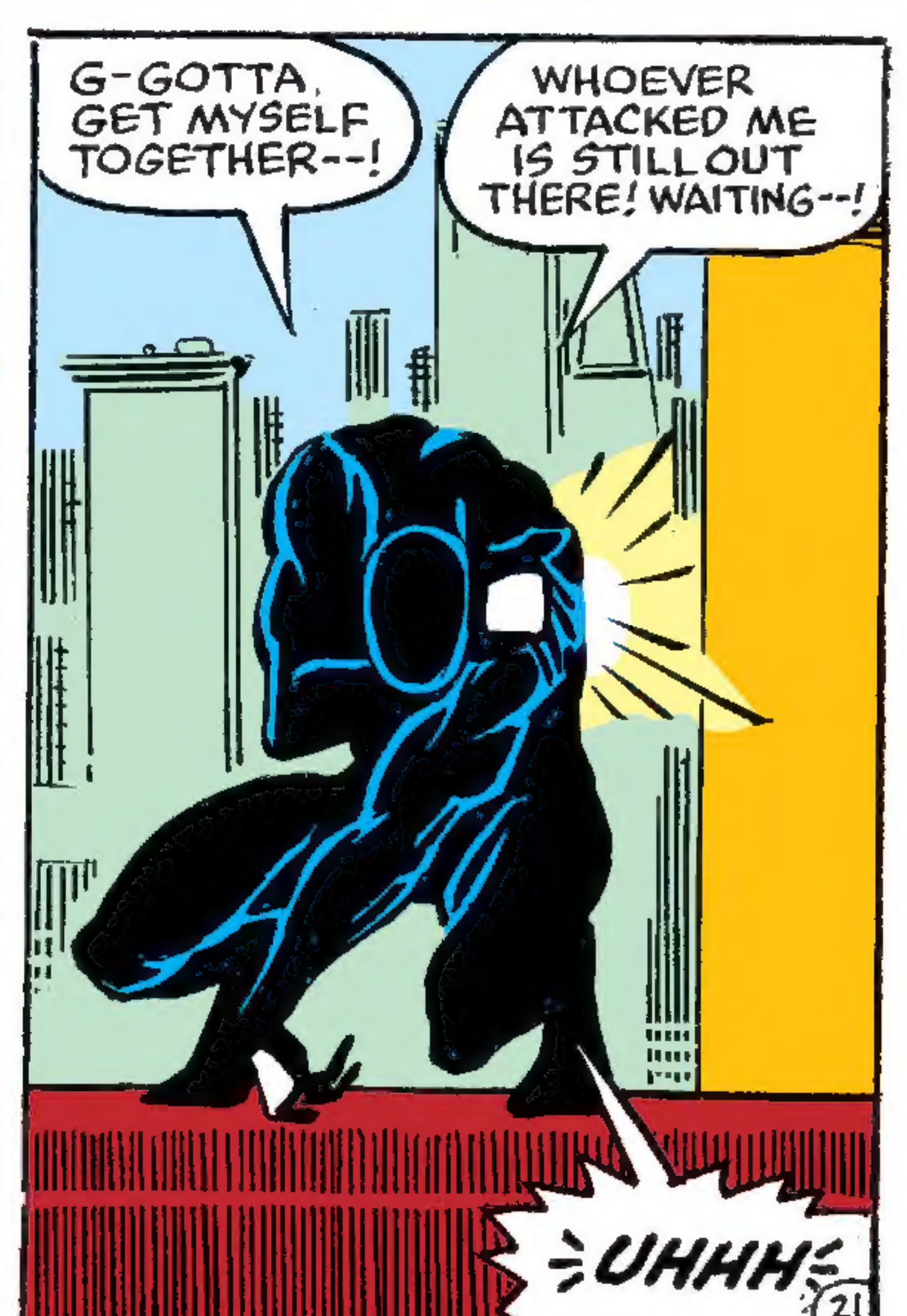
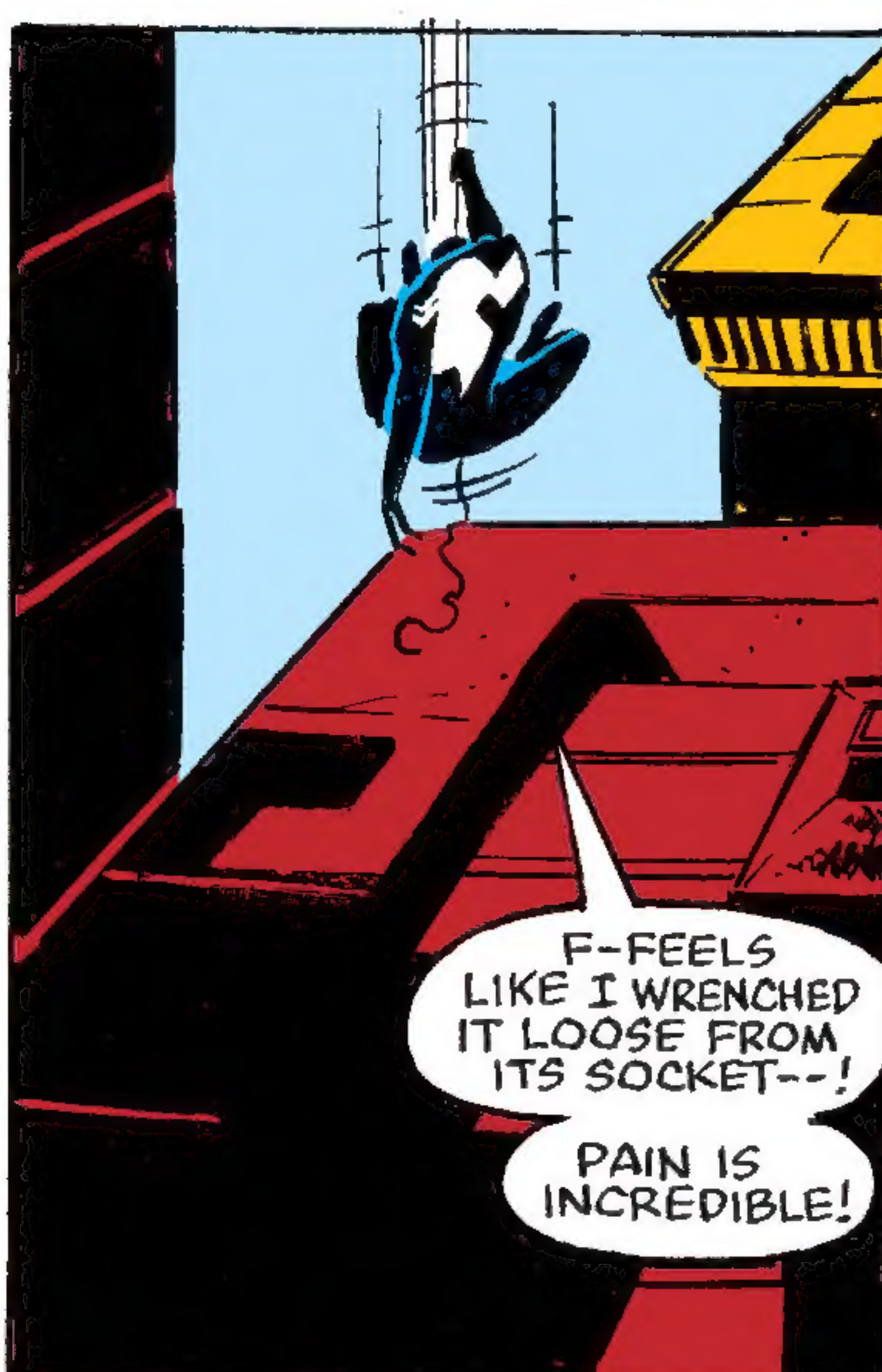
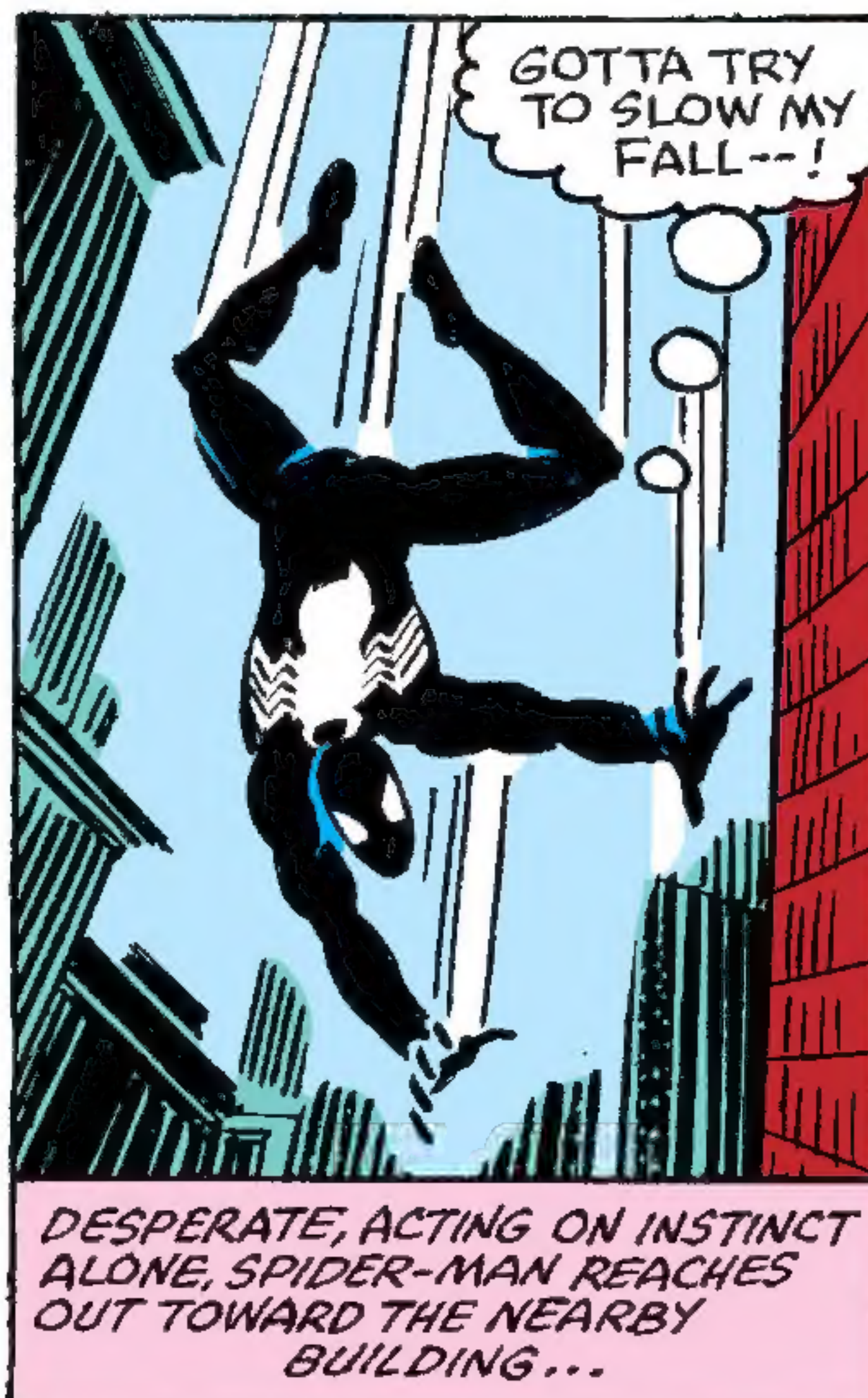
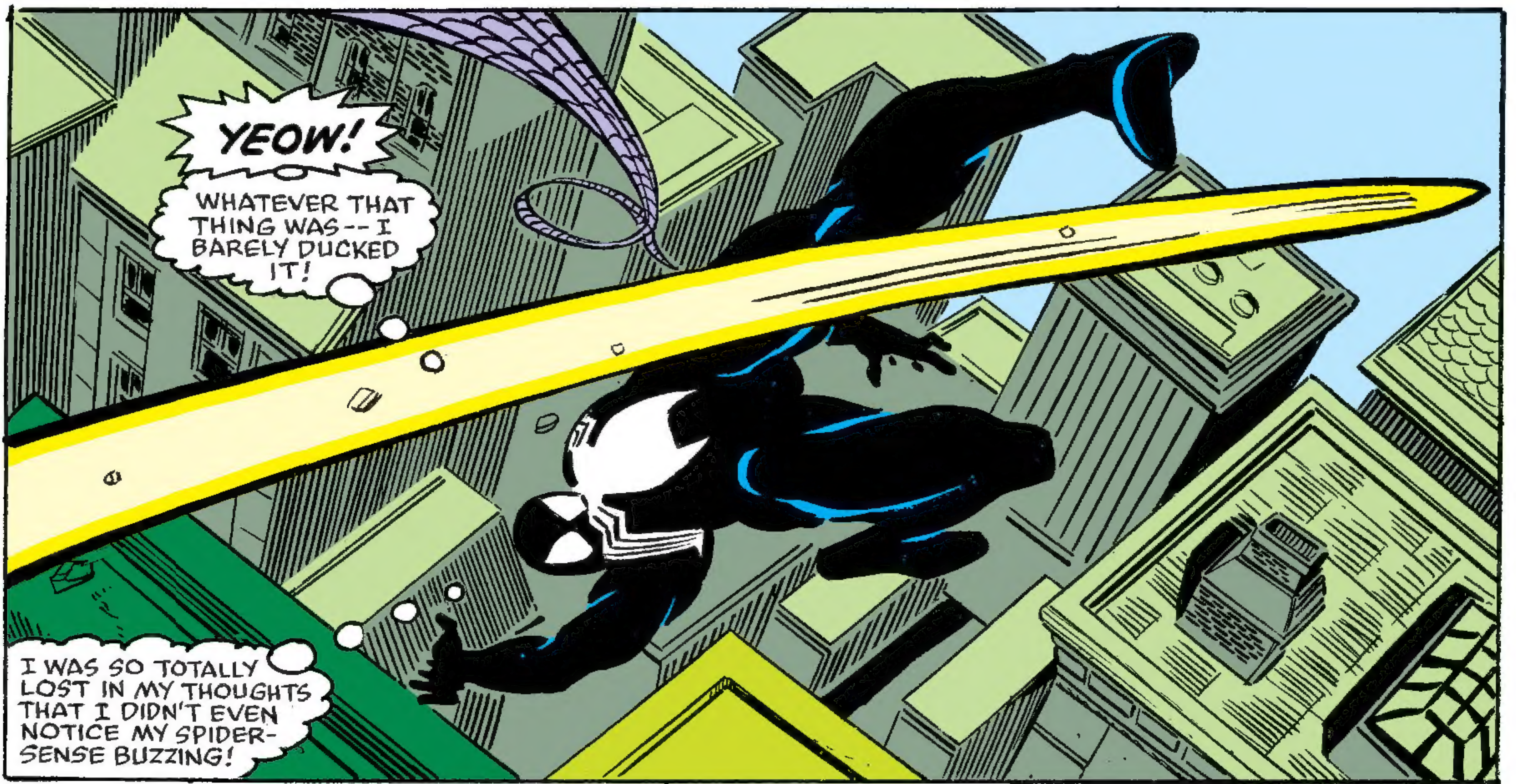
AND THEN...

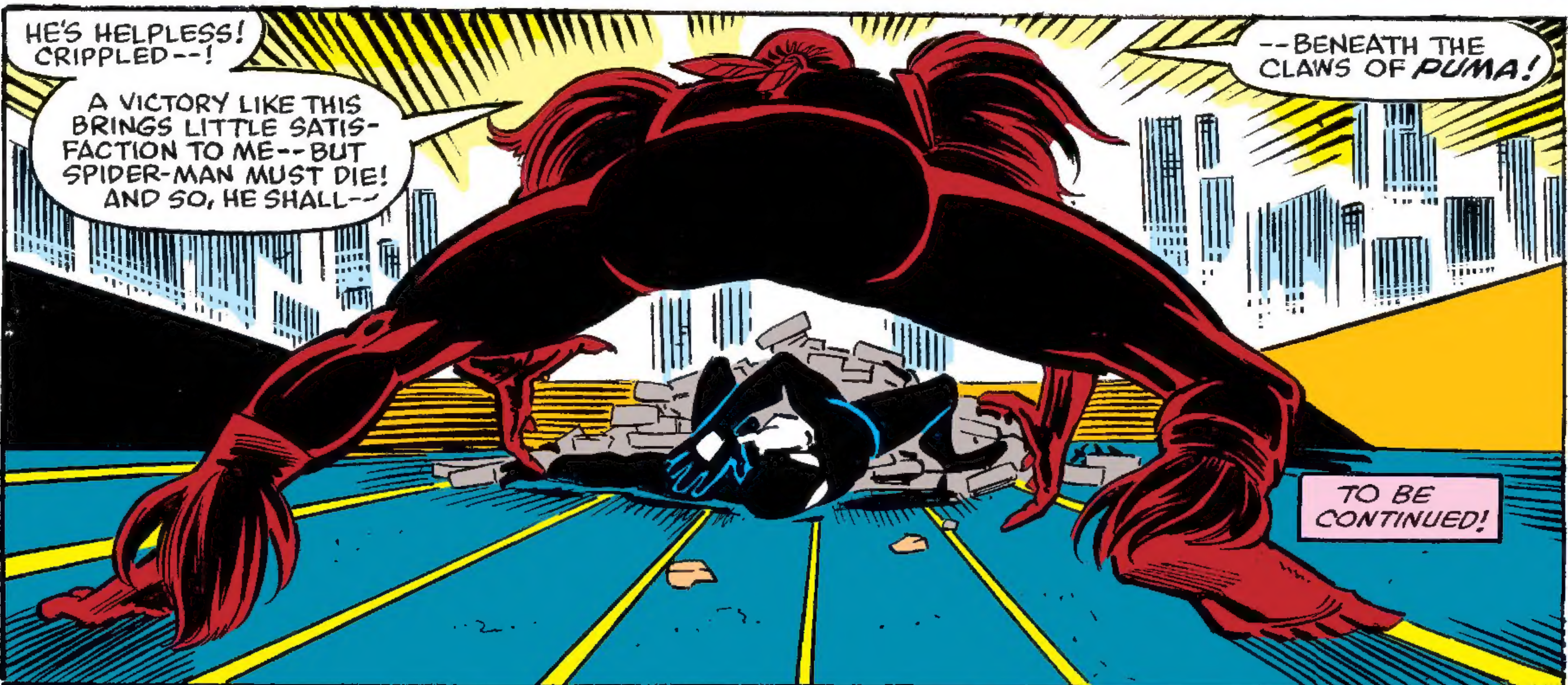
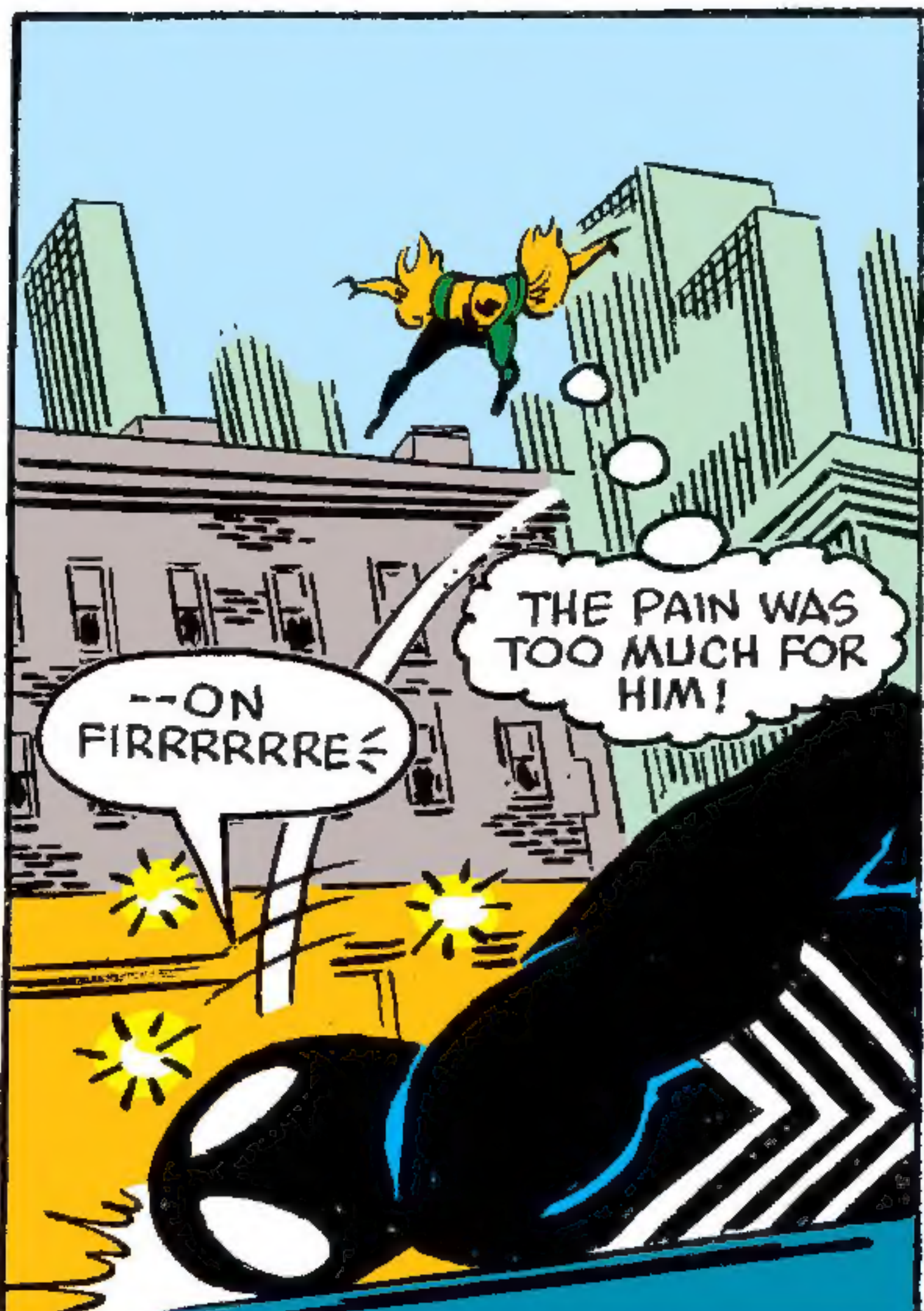
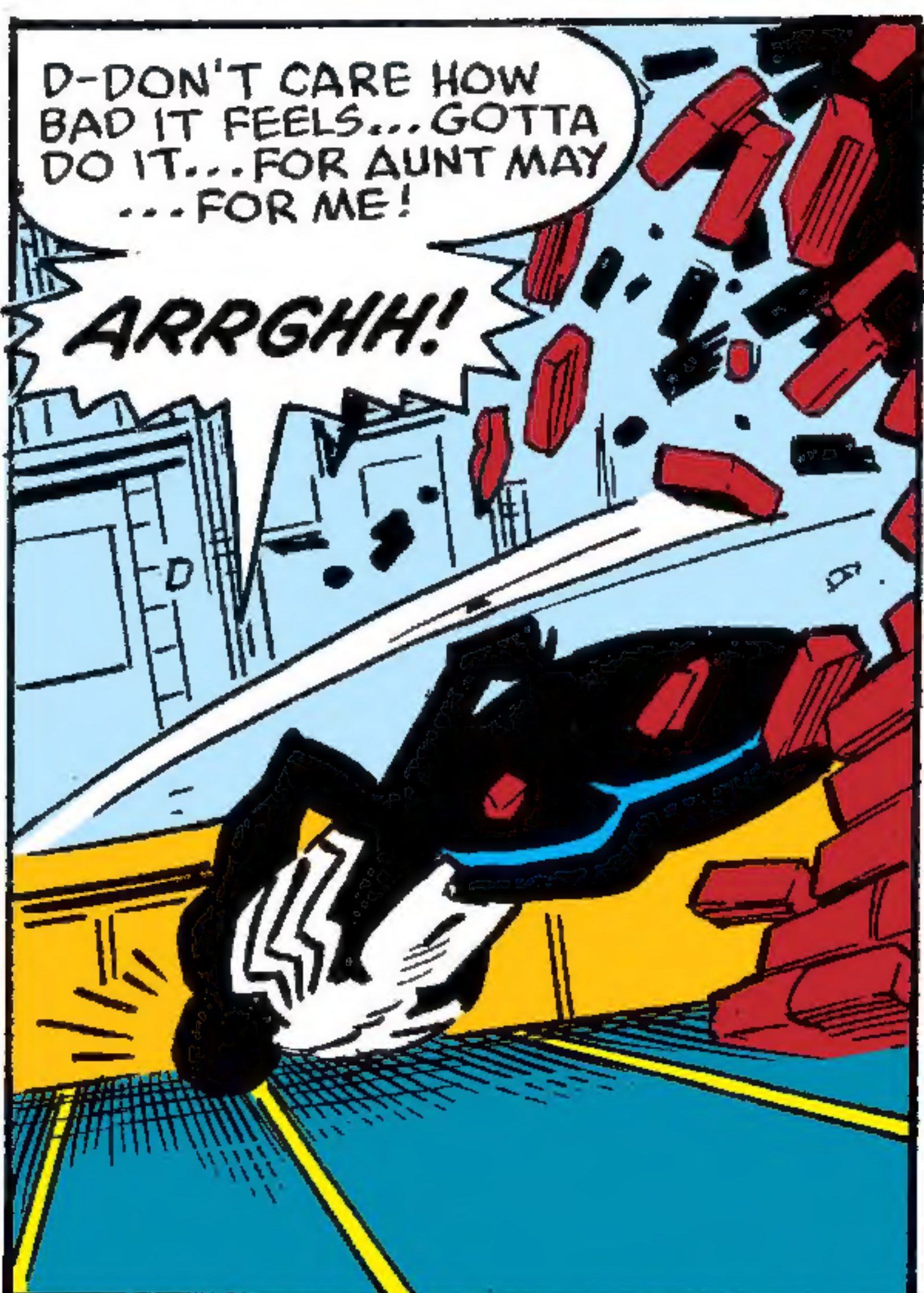
I'VE DONE IT! I'VE FOUND HIM!



INCREDIBLY POWERFUL LEG MUSCLES PROPEL HIM UPWARD AND FORWARD ON A DIRECT ROUTE TO HIS PREY!







NEXT ISSUE! THE BLACK CAT ENRAGED! A STARTLING REVELATION FROM MARY JANE WATSON-- WHICH WILL CHANGE PETER PARKER'S LIFE FOREVER! PLUS-- THE SURPRISING RETURN OF THE MOST REQUESTED SPIDER-VILLAIN OF RECENT TIMES! (GUESS WHO!) DON'T MISS--

"THE FURY OF... PUMA!"



Shadowcat

